

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

APPENDIX

TO THE

FOURTH REPORT.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

(TAKEN IN LONDON, 14TH TO 23RD FEBRUARY, 1907)

AND

DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page
List of Members of the Commission, ...	iii
Terms of Reference, ...	iii
List of Witnesses, ...	iv
Summary of Evidence, ...	v
Minutes of Evidence, ...	1
Index to Appendices, ...	156
Appendices, ...	158

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

The Right Hon. The EARL OF DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman),

The Right Hon. Sir A. P. MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I.

The Right Hon. Sir JOHN C. B. COLONS, K.C.M.G.

The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.

The Most Rev. PATRICK O'DONNELL, D.D., Lord Bishop of Raphoe

JOHN ANNAN BUTCH, Esq., M.P.

WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.

CONOR O'KEEFE, Esq., M.P.

ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq., Chairman of the Fishery Board for Scotland.

Secretary—

WALTER GALLAN, Esq.

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

"To inquire into and report upon the operations of the Acts dealing with Congestion in Ireland, the working of the Congested Districts Board, and the Land Commission under these Acts, and the relations of the Board with the Land Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; what areas (if any) outside the districts now scheduled as congested, require to be dealt with as congested; what lands are most conveniently situated for the relief of congestion; what changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas."

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Name	Page.
Rev. W. E. Green, ...	1
A. T. Duthie, ...	11
W. J. D. Walker, ...	30
Professor J. E. Campbell, ...	45
George Fletcher, ...	100
R. A. Anderson, ...	117
Right Hon. Sir Harace Plunkett, . .	129
R. B. MacGregor, ...	142

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE.

Rev. W. S. GREEN.

- Explanation of memoranda and map put in, 18608-23.
 Marine works on Irish coast, 18810-46, 18907-9, 18715-31.
 Division of responsibility between Board of Works and Fishery Inspectors, and absence of one central authority has been disastrous, 18827-39; opinion of Allport Commission on this, 18832-4.
 Withdrawal of subsidy of £3,500 a year made under Act of 1829, 18339-5, and present position, 18882-6.
 Downing's Bay and Malin Head piers built in wrong places, 18715-31.
 Comparison between Scottish and Irish fisheries, 18859-663.
 Productivity of Scottish and Irish waters, 18861-70.
 Means of distribution and geographical position, 18771-2, 18634-45, 18707-52.
 Harbour accommodation, 18773-81, 18800-4.
 Statistics affected by steam trawlers which land fish near the markets, 18802-8, 18684-31, 18704-6.
 Expenditure on fisheries, 18631-4, 18666-73.
 Difference in boats, 18661-63.
 Difference in administration, 18559-60, 18673-90, 18605-7, 18632-3, 18653, 18686-96.
 Difference between Irish and Scottish fishing grounds, 18609-23.
 Cured fish, 18642-61.
 Money to be expended on harbours should be managed by an Irish authority, 18590-4.
 Possibilities of development of Irish fisheries, 18608-23, 18715-4.
 Amount of fresh fish landed in Ireland limited by demand of home market, 18646-51.
 Number of men employed fishing, 18654-6.
 Amount of money earned, 18655-56.
 Class of boat popular in Ireland, 18663-6.
 Brand for mackerel, 18674-8.
 Superiority of Irish herrings, 18676-84.
 Movements of fish, 18685-704.

Mr. A. T. DUTHIE.

- Donegal herring fishery, 18733-5, 18738-72, 18776-65, 18798.
 Began in 1895 by the Board, 18732-5, 18739-46.
 Curing business carried on by Board till 1897, 18747-57, 18804-7.
 Cost of Board's curing work, 18758-72, 18776-86.
 High price paid for cured Donegal herrings, 18769-903.
 Effect of a railway at Downing's Bay, 18612-7, 18680-5.
 Value of the fishing, 18686-31.
 Markets, 18660-2, 18682-6.
 Wages earned and employment given, 18632-61.
 Effect on emigration, 18639-53.
 Summer fishing and use of boats employed, 18662-73.
 Cured fish industry outside Donegal, 18773-5, 18790-5.
 Different quality of herrings, 18766-7.
 In-shore and off-shore fishing, 18875-84.
 Barrel-making and coopers, 18885-912.
 Price of Board's barrels, 18689-90.
 Coopers trained, 18930-22.
 Supply of slaves, 18925-56, 18104-13.
 Barrel-making in Kerry, 18696-108.

Mr. A. T. DUTHIE—continued.

- Boat-building at Killybegs Industrial School and elsewhere, 18114-20.
 Scotch and Irish boats compared, 19049-73.
 Cod, ling, and conger eel fishing (long line fishing), 18736-8, 18923-32.
 Fishing in currents, 18929-42.
 Fluctuations in the fishing, 18947-51.
 Nobbles, 18951-2.
 Cured mackerel trade, 18992-66.
 Consumption of fish in Ireland and the home market, 18960-82.
 Harbour dues paid on fish, 18986-93.
 Piers and harbours, 18979-83.
 Amount spent on piers and harbours, 18983.
 Provision of boats, 18995-1806.
 Share system, 18999-19022, 19065-9, 19086-8.
 Boats lost in Downing's Bay in December, 1896, and question of insurance, 19063-58.
 Demand for boats and possible fishing population, 19059-77.
 Size of boat, 19063-73.
 Loan system, 19094-98.
 Cereanara fishing prospects, 19129-70, 19190-1.
 Glenties fishery, 19137-70.
 General prospects of fishery development on West coast, 19171-80.

Mr. W. J. D. WALKER.

- Board's industrial classes, 19193, 19218, 19227-76, 19372.
 Provision of class-rooms, 19193.
 Provision of teachers, 19223-4.
 Turnover and number of workers, 19227-8.
 Average wages earned and hours worked, 19230-44.
 Educative effect, 19247-8, 19277-84.
 Location of classes, 19244-50.
 Difficulties in way of starting classes, 19251-68.
 Pullathomas class, 19261-4, 19269-75.
 Earnings compared with valuation, 19272-6.
 Age of pupils, 19278.
 Effect of primary instruction, especially drawing, 19272.
 Effect on emigration, 19270.
 Increase in lace trade, 19193, 19197.
 Irish Lace Depot, 19195-22, 19295-6.
 Prospects of further development of lace industry, 19464-9.
 Embroidery classes, 19270-81.
 Illiteracy of certain districts, 19294-303.
 Might be remedied by provision of school meals and teaching of domestic science, 19297-8, 19335-8, 19393-96.
 Special claims of poorest districts, 19329-94.
 Strengthening of National Schools necessary, 19265-268, 19342-54.
 Question of diet, 19367, 19326-41.
 Rates in poor districts, 19312-6.
 Condition of people in poorest districts, 19326-41.
 Condition of National Schools, 19342-71.
 Knitting industry, 18773-7.
 Progressiveness of County Donegal, 19378-94.
 Home-grown industry, 19394-406.
 Domestic economy instruction, 19401-34.
 Nature of training, 19401-32.
 Effect of training, 19428-34.
 Manual instruction classes, 19435-52.
 Training for artistic industries, 19443-6.

MR. W. J. D. WALKER—continued.

- Industries for men, 19452-63.
 Quarrying, 19452-6.
 Textile industries, 19456-61.
 Water power, 19462-3.
 Fordard woolen mills, 19481, 19484-63.
 Messrs. Morison's carpet factories, 19481-4, 19494-7.
 Local taxation, 19498-513.
 Extent of work of inspection and correspondence, 19514-38.
 Lady Duffley's farms, 19536-51, 19573-7.
 Origin of scheme, 19556-4.
 Provision of houses, 19556, 19558-62.
 Beneficial work of the farms, 19556, 19543-4.
 Overlapping of Board and Department, 19553-8.
 Nursing and sanitation work, 19569-77.
 Valuation of different districts, 19577-9.
 Agricultural work of Board compared with Department's, 19580-4.

PROFESSOR J. R. CAMPBELL.

- Scheme of evidence to be given, 18886-7, 18906-600.
 Initial proceedings of Department, 19003.
 Work which Department had to face, 18888-9.
 Witnesses' knowledge of Ireland, 18900-4.
 Division of work between Department and local authorities, 19001.
 Functions of local authorities, 19001.
 Relations of Department with local authorities, 19001.
 Agricultural work of a year, 19003-7.
 Department's expenditure in aid of contributions from local rates, 19003-13.
 Agricultural education, 19014-767.
 History of instruction formerly given in National Schools, 19014-65.
 Albert Institution, Glasnevin, 19014, 19053.
 Difficulty caused by lack of inclination for agricultural life, 19053-743, 19778-9.
 Reasons for this disinclination, 19070-61, 19718-43.
 School-boys in Ireland seldom work on farms, 19729-42.
 Miners' instruction, 19743, 19769-6, 18800, 18856-62.
 Influences inimical to agricultural progress, 19744-50.
 Lack of teachers, 19003-4, 19035, 19089.
 Difficulty in County Donegal about appointment of natives, 19006-72.
 Institutions connected with Department's scheme of agricultural education, 19767-802.
 Central Institution for highest technical teaching, 19767-9, 19093-5.
 High-class agricultural colleges, 19769, 19006-13.
 Provincial institutions, 19769-72, 19018-39.
 Winter schools, 19772-4, 19034-56.
 Women's central college, 19774-94.
 Residential and day-schools of domestic economy and farmyard lore, 19000, 19089-137.
 System of Miners' instruction, 19000, 19052-3, 19055-62.
 Care exercised in selection of agricultural pupils, 19775-800.
 Cheapness of agricultural courses, 19775-800.
 Effect on small holders of breaking up of grass lands, 19003.
 Question whether cutting up of grass lands would lead to increase in tillage, 19030-4, 19062, 19001, 19001, 19032.
 Explanation of diagrams illustrative of work, 19089, 19003-04, 19073-4.
 Cottages and small farms improvements schemes, 19055-7, 19036-47.
 Parish committees, 19028-55, 19068-9, 19002-3, 19005.
 Poultry-keeping, 19067-79, 19006-11.
 Horse-dairying, 19079-82.
 Horticulture, 19001.

PROFESSOR J. R. CAMPBELL—continued.

- Live-stock schemes, 19075-83, 19075-215, 190762-4.
 Horses, 19074-82.
 Bulls, 19082, 19075-215.
 Provision of bulls, 19075.
 Regulations, 19075-61.
 Varieties, 19076-209.
 Pigs, 19070-5.
 Effect on milking qualities, 19072-4.
 Swine, 19082-3.
 Agricultural shows, 19063-9, 19038-49.
 Demonstration plots, 19009-4.
 Peat industry, 19012-21.
 Department's work in congested districts, 19003-9, 19031-47, 19050-74, 19016-46, 19086-438, 19089-620.
 Overlapping with Congested Districts Board, 19008-9.
 Excluded from spending endowment in congested districts until 1903, 19021.
 Rating difficulty, 19021.
 Overlapping with Board, 19021, 19037, 19019.
 Transfer of Board's agricultural functions to Department, 19021.
 Financial side of transfer, 19024-8, 19056-80.
 Allowances to be made in comparison between Board and Department, 19025-67.
 Necessity for more funds for Department's work in congested districts, 19079-80, 19047-51, 19086, 19081-3, 19005-12.
 Amount spent in congested districts, including supplementary schemes, 19008-7, 19050-74, 19016-42.
 Method of meeting wants of poorer districts by supplementary schemes, etc., 19022-45, 19097-213.
 Special needs best met by Department and local committees, 19036-67, 19019-22, 19087-900.
 Are local committees representative of poorer districts, 19038-418.
 Proposals for work of agricultural development in congested areas, 19097-913.
 Continuity of effort and administration necessary, 19019.
 Schools for girls and Bawn-an-Tigha classes, 19039-137.
 Lough Glynn, 19082-91, 19006-6, 19014-6, 19014-6.
 Westport, 19018-37.
 Objects, 19068-9, 19000-7.
 Age limit, 19003-100.
 Hours of work, 19018-31.
 Schemes operating in congested districts, 19051-386.
 Agricultural instruction, 19051-4.
 Horse-breeding, 19084-76, 19083.
 Ass-breeding, 19076-94.
 Cattle-breeding, 19084-311.
 Swine-breeding, 19011-44, 19039-4; variations in prices and effect on breeding, 19080, 19038-42.
 Sheep-breeding, 19034-50; sheep drains, 19076-9.
 Poultry-keeping, 19050-61, 19034; housing accommodation, 19075-8.
 Condition of agriculture in Ireland, especially in the West, 19048-49, 19067-8.
 Early potato growing, 19070-92.
 Beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese, eggs, and poultry are the staple agricultural products exported from Ireland, 19048-9.
 Dairying, pig-breeding, and poultry rearing likely to be more profitable than raising store or fat cattle, 19057-62, 19078-94.
 Even Scotch feeders are feeling foreign competition, 19058-79, 19078-9.
 Tillage versus grazing, 19040-64, 19048-535, 19058, 19032-3.
 Grazing ranches should be broken up, 19046-66, 19030-2.
 Question of heavy land, 19050.
 Tillage more profitable, 19048-8, 19057-17, 19030-4, 19041-6, 19032-5.
 Mixed farming will pay best, 19018-29.
 Reservations of grass lands necessary if beef-raising to continue, 19030-40.
 Age to which stock should be kept, 19047-55.
 Effect of breaking up grass land on present cattle trade, 19047-73, 19072.

PROFESSOR J. R. CAMPBELL—continued.

- Potato-spraying, 20937-8.
 Area of grass land that should be cut up, 20702-12.
 Disadvantages of present Irish store and fat cattle trade, 20741-68.
 Growth and fattening should be simultaneous, 20763-2.
 Foreign competition will be especially felt in Ireland under present system, 20755-88.
 Store trade will suffer more than fat cattle trade, 20760, 20775-7, 20780.
 Prospects of new occupiers, 20776-87, 20888.

Economic holdings: Department's views on size, 20788-814, 20854-7.

- Question of migratory labourers, 20814-54.
 Help required for new landholders, 20838-703, 20858-8, 20814-9.

Necessity for proper farm buildings for mixed farming on new holdings, 20856, 20863-7, 20874-76.

Nature and cost of buildings required, 20868-649.

- Working capital or loans for the provision of stock and implements, 20875-7, 20888-82.
 Amount required, 20888-79.
 Terms of loans, 20890-92.

Education,

- Education required for new holders, 20892-7, 20914-9.
 Practical instruction in agriculture, 20892, 20915-8.
 Organisation, 20897.
 Agricultural education for girls, 20919.

MR. GEORGE FLETCHER.

- Difficulty experienced by Department of working in Congested Districts, 20922-31.
 Department at first restrained from spending money there, 20983, 20986.
 Rating difficulty modified in 1902, 20993.
 Restriction as to expenditure of money removed in 1903, 20993.
 Insufficiency of funds, 20993-31, 20941, 20942, 21076-8.

Extension of Department's technical instruction schemes to congested areas, 20993.

Department's Schemes of Technical Instruction, 20993-1036.

Science courses and scholarships in secondary schools, 20993-1016.

Christian Brothers' Schools, 20993-97.

Intermediate Education Board's system of grants based on examination, 21000-16.

Home industries classes, 21016, 21043-5.

Domestic economy classes, 21016, 21039-47, 21063-141, 21132-230.

Technical schools for girls, 21038-47.

Drawing, 21040-3.

Training of teachers of domestic economy, 21048-60.

Supply and employment of teachers, 21062-76.

Manual instruction, 21078-89, 21088-141, 21132-230.

Nature knowledge or rural economy, 21132.

Relations with Board overlapping, 20993-49.

Differences in powers of Board and Department, 20943.

County, Urban, and Joint Committees, 21016-38.

Kilenny Guild of Wood Workers, 21038-95.

Problem of education in rural districts, 21095-210.

Policy recommended, 21095-7, 21095-141, 21132-210.

Co-ordination with National schools and system of central schools, 21066-141, 21132-210.

Cost, 21152-4, 21183-94, 21196-210.

Present system fosters inclination to leave the land, 21141-51.

Irish Educational machinery, 21167-73.

MR. GEORGE FLETCHER—continued.

Encouragement of industries, 21231-5, 21245-60.

Power of Department, 21211.

Growth of interest in technical instruction and industrial revival in Ireland, 21212-6.

Limitation of utility of home industries, 21245-55.

Board's method of assisting industries, 21236-60.

Spirit of Committee, 21255-21.

Success as measured by results, 21252-4.

Money spent, 21259-60.

MR. R. A. ANDERSON.

Irish Agricultural Organisation Society: origin, nature, and importance of work, 21262, 21274-97, 21347-55, 21429-31.

Number of societies and other statistics, 21277-8.

Funds, 21280-82, 21285-9, 21439.

Relations with Congested Districts Board, 21280.

Relations with Department, 21280, 21286, 21347-55, 21429-31.

Relations with traders, 21281-7, 21353-5.

Co-operative creameries, 21292-73, 21360-400, 21433-50.

Co-operative credit societies, 21286, 21291, 21331-6, 21354-76.

Co-operative insurance of live-stock, 21336-40.

Co-operation applied to the poultry industry, 21377-80.

Importance of co-operation and organization in poorer districts and amongst small holders, 21291, 21296-321, 21413-23.

System of barter common in congested districts, 21321-24.

Relations of traders and poor customers, 21238-331.

Process of formation of a co-operative society, 21346, 21356.

Opposition to co-operative movement, 21291-8, 21293, 21429-8.

Construction of co-operative societies, 21358-46, 21364.

Agricultural developments possible in West of Ireland, 21430.

Home industries, 21450.

Co-operative grating, 21400-15.

Particulars of work in County Donegal, 21428-60.

MR. HORACE PLUNKETT.

Nature of evidence, 21451-61.

Character of people in congested districts, 21461.

Education, agricultural and other necessary, 21463.

Re-settlement must be gradual, 21468-83, 21481-6.

regard should be had to the settler's capacity, 21482-6, 21477-83.

Keeping of watered land on hand, 21478-81.

Are new holdings created by the Board suitable, 21494, 21504-55, 21540-50.

Result of Board's migration scheme, 21534-8.

Migratory labourers and enlarged holdings, 21497.

Question of direct sales of estates which need improvement, 21499-523.

Question of compulsion, 21508, 21517-8.

Relation of standard of living to an economic holding, 21520-24.

Objections to standardising all holdings, 21561-8.

Elasticity and mobility required, 21561.

A system of various sized holdings and an agricultural ladder desirable, 21559-66.

Restraint for a time necessary on the enlargement of holdings, 21565-83.

Difficulties in way of getting public opinion to back up supervision necessary, 21584-85.

Difficulties of re-distributing the land, 21584.

Advantages of a variety of holdings, 21584.

Economic, hyper-economic, and allotments, 21590.

Mr. R. R. MacGREGOR.

- Determination of a "congested district" under Scottish Act, 21589-60.
- Crofting parishes, 21609-3, 21609-9.
- Crofting population, 21607-9.
- Crofted parishes, 21629-31.
- Area and population of congested districts, 21631-6.
- Nature and elasticity of definition, 21637-43.
- Question of valuation, 21641-54, 21890-64.
- Finances of Congested Districts Board for Scotland, 21655-60.
- Staff and salaries, 21661-719.
- Land managers and agricultural inspectors, 21717.
- Land purchase operations, 21727-30.
- Creation of small holdings, 21736-42.
- Economic holdings, 21743-9.
- Question of migration, 21750-803, 21836-7, 22061-7, 22059-62, 22060-73.
- Shannon settlement, 21762-803.

Mr. R. R. MacGREGOR—continued.

- Relations between crofter and ceftiar, 21803-29.
- Legal position of crofters, 21837-64.
- Agricultural operations, 21855-81.
- Powers of Board to train boys and girls, 21882-6.
- Training work, 21887-931.
- Fishery work, 21902-2000, 22078.
- Little assistance required from Board, 21924-34.
- Tramway facilities, 21935-6.
- Auxiliary motor power for fishing boats, 21939-42.
- Fishing villages at Stormoray, 21943-2000.
- Appitude of Western population for fishing, 22078-81.
- Crofters are continued as tenants and not made purchasers, 22008-15, 22074-7.
- Wool, marine and other, 22014-20.
- Credit system in congested districts, 22021-6.
- Condition of people, 22027-22.
- Migratory labourers and emigration, 22053-73.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

THIRTY-EIGHTH PUBLIC SITTING.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 1907,

AT 2 O'CLOCK, P.M.,

At Winchester House, St. James's Square, S.W.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOME, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. W. SPOTSWOOD GREEN re-examined.*

FEB 14, 1907

Mr. W.
Spotswood
Green.

18508. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Perhaps the best way in which you can give your evidence is to take up the additional statements which you have been so good as to supply us with,† and when you develop that a little bit we will ask you any questions that occur to us as we go along?—At the October meeting of the Commission in Dublin I was asked to prepare a memorandum dealing with different periods, showing what was the condition of the fisheries during four periods—from 1775 to 1800; from 1800 to 1837; from 1837 to 1870; and from 1870 to the present time. I was asked to state what were the characteristics of each period, and what public works were projected or finished to assist the fisheries in each; what has been the effect of these public works; how far any of them are still effective; and then what remains to be done. Owing to the brief space of time available and the pressing nature of other duties, I was only able to get up some rough notes, and then under the impression that I was to be re-examined in November, I put them into the hands of the Commission, a couple of months ago. I had also given evidence on this subject at the last meeting from question 4807 to 4929. The memorandum marked B gave a sketch of the history of the Irish fisheries since 1775, and I stated what are practically my authorities.‡ I have developed to a certain extent the evidence I then gave by adding the Acts of Parliament which related to bounties during all those periods from 1763 up to 1830, when the bounties were abolished. Since handing in that I have prepared a second memorandum marked C, because the first one did not cover the ground of all the questions put to me at the October meeting.†

18509. When you say you have prepared a second statement you are alluding to this one which is before me?—I am alluding to both memoranda. You have two, I think.

18510. Yes?—One (B) was prepared with the idea of my being here in November, and the other has since been prepared. I have stated in memorandum B that when I was examined before this Commission on the 8th of October last, I was asked to furnish (Question 5256) a short report on the condition of the fisheries, divided into four periods. I have handed that in. I was further asked (see Question 5259) to pass under review the ports selected by the Congested Districts

Board along the coasts of the congested districts as centres for fishery development; whether those ports in view of subsequent experience have been conveniently selected; whether any of them should be abandoned; whether any new ones should be selected having regard to the aptitude of the people engaged in fishing; whether there are at these places adequate facilities for boats suitable to the available fisheries; and whether the facilities are such as would be required in case of further developments, and if they are not adequate what is necessary to make them so. With regard to this question there is memorandum C and a map has been prepared.‡ Mr. Mitchell has given me a copy of it, and I think Mr. Callan has given you copies. That map was prepared by the Inspectors of Fisheries in 1894, and it answers some of the questions. The Table which is annexed to that map sets forth a list of works which were constructed under the Board of Works and various Commissions for the Relief of Distress. The Table referred to is in the right-hand corner, the dates at which the different works were completed are given. Some of them were completed before 1832.

18511. May I ask you one question on this point. The names of the place where the works were carried out is given in the first column, but I do not see what those works were, whether they were harbours or piers, or what they were?—They were marine works of some sort. With regard to those constructed by the Board of Works, &c., the exact description of each work is given in the "Reference" above the table on the Map, and in the case of the numbers in circles the nature of the work is to be found in the List of Congested Districts Board Works.‡

18512. Mr. SECRETARY.—May I ask you this question. Then, in carrying out those works this general plan was adhered to, was it?—No, because they were all built by different Commissions. Some few of these were built by the old Fishery Board in 1829 and 1830.

18513. I thought you said this was a sort of general plan for the whole coast of Ireland?—Oh, no; what I should have said is this, that this map shows in those coloured dots that are on it, the marine works that have been carried out.

18514. So that this was made subsequent to the making of the works?—Subsequent to the making. All

* For first examination see Appendix to First Report of the Commission [Ct. 2, 267, 1896], pp. 185-212.

† See p. 161 and p. 183.

‡ See p. 155.

§ See pp. 155-60.

Feb 14, 1907.

Mr. W.
Spencer
Groom.

these points that are shown in colour were works mostly made by the Board of Works, and what were not made by the Board of Works were made by the Piers and Harbours Commission or some Commission succeeding that. Then the long strokes that are running out from the coast with a circle at the end of each which are generally of a different character from the other marks that you see, are the works that have been carried out by the Congested Districts Board.

18515. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—By the Congested Districts Board?—The Congested Districts Board. All the circles that are connected with the coast by a long stroke represent works that have been carried out by the Congested Districts Board.

18516. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Those therefore refer to works that have been carried out since the map was originally made?—Since the map was originally made, and recently added for your convenience. They have now been put on to this map in order to show how far the congested districts are equipped at present with regard to marine works.

18517. Might we take it that that map although made in 1881 has by the circumstances that you have explained been brought up to date?—Brought up to date or very nearly so.

18518. And does that show what you describe as the marine works pretty well up to date?—Pretty well up to date—some few new works carried out under the Marine Works Act are not shown.

18519. May I ask you with respect to this square Table in the right-hand corner of the map what is the meaning of the entry "Rep. R.C.P.W."?

Mr. SPENCER GROOM.—Is it Royal Commission on Public Works?—The Royal Commission on Public Works; that is what is commonly known as the Allport Commission.

18520. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you consider it useful for the purpose of showing the marine works carried out in the congested districts?—That is the object of this map, to show the works that have been carried out.

18521. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Chiefly on the north-west?—Yes; on the whole west coast with the exception of works under the Marine Works Act at Cape Clear, Gorteenale, etc., it applies to the whole of the west.

18522. Were those works omitted intentionally?—They were not omitted intentionally, but I have sought to call attention to the fact that they are omitted. There are only about five altogether.

18523. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—They omitted them because the marine works devised under the Marine Works Act are not yet all completed?—They are not yet all completed. The money is not yet expended, and consequently it would not be a complete statement.

18524. And the administration and carrying out of the Marine Works Act is by a body acting separately from the Congested Districts Board?—It is a body acting directly under the Irish Executive Government.

18525. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But wherever it is under the control of, it does affect the industries of the coast?—It affects the industries of the coast to this extent; the Congested Districts Board has an interest in it. They were asked to contribute 10 per cent. of the cost, and the Congested Districts Board and in one instance the Department of Agriculture, have contributed 10 per cent. of the cost of these works carried out under the Marine Works Act.

18526. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Are you mixed up in that?—Practically we are. I have been consulted with respect to these works.

18527. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You said that those various marine works made since 1829 were put forward by different Commissions and different authorities?—Different Commissions and different authorities, and in my memorandum "B" I have shown how many were of some use when the Congested Districts Board began to develop the fisheries.

18528. There has been in Ireland, since 1829, no strong vigorous body in charge of the Irish fisheries, such as has existed in Scotland?—Well, I do not see to say that in the presence of a Scottish Fishery Commission. As an Inspector of Fisheries now for a number of years I have been consulted in regard to the construction of marine works in some way or other, but in the expenditure of the large grant of £35,000 that was made in 1881 the Board of Works had the carrying out of those works, and a Committee was

appointed to select the sites for works, partly composed of the Inspectors of Fisheries, but not altogether; and then the joint action of those two bodies was reviewed, and not very favourably reviewed, in the Report of the Allport Commission, because the Board of Works and the special Fisheries Committee that was appointed did not pull together, and consequently no engineering advice was given to the Committee by the Board of Works. They refused it.

18529. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did the Committee ask for it?—The Committee asked for it. This has all been gone into by the Allport Commission, and I have the exact words of that Commission here, but roughly speaking it was this, that this small Committee that went round to select the sites for works had no engineer with them, and they asked the Treasury to allow them to have an engineer of their own in selecting the sites, and they were told that they had the assistance of the Board of Works; but the Board of Works did not feel it their duty at all to assist the Committee, and did not, but they felt it their duty, as soon as the Committee selected a site, to carry out as well as they could, the work which was decided upon, whether it was good or bad, and irrespective of what the cost might be. The Committee were not in a position to estimate. They might think the work was necessary for the place, but they did not feel themselves in a position to compare the relative cost of things that might otherwise be suitable. Then the Board of Works, of course, repudiated all responsibility with regard to the selection of the site, and if anybody says there has been a pier built where there are no boats the Board of Works say it is the fault of the Committee and the Committee said it was the fault of somebody else, or that they got no engineering assistance. The whole thing points to one conclusion, which is that, as in Scotland where I understand the Fishery Board and the pier-constructing authority are practically one and the same, so if there is any change to be made in the present condition of things in Ireland this Commission should keep foremost in their minds, that the Fishery and Harbour Improvement Authorities should be one and the same. There should be no such thing as two bodies working in antagonism as those people have been. I am not merely giving an opinion, but quoting what was said by the Allport Commission who sat on the squabble. Of course that is past and gone now, and the only importance of it is to bear in mind that in any plans that are made this difficulty should be faced.

18530. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It is a fact that after 1859, when the hewy system was discontinued in Ireland, we had no efficient Fishery Board in Ireland?—I stated that in my former evidence, I think, and I also put it into my memorandum that the policy adopted on the abolition of the old Fishery Board was one of non-interference, and this was considered a most important policy. So nothing was done practically for the Irish fisheries by the State during about 20 years.

18531. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The years from?—From 1830; certainly from 1835, because there was a Commission called upon to report. It ran on from 1830 to 1867, I think.

18532. CHAIRMAN.—Will you read what the Commission said on the point?—Yes. Paragraph 19 of the Report of the Royal Commission on Irish Public Works, Section 25, headed, "The Division of Responsibility for Harbour Works":—"Having now described in general terms the present condition of the sea fisheries of Ireland and of matters connected with them we return to the discussion of the important question of harbours, to which prominence is given in the terms of your Majesty's reference to us. In this connection we desire to draw special attention to the division of responsibility which, up to the present, has been allowed to exist, the Fishery Inspectors or the Fishery Piers and Harbours Commission having been primarily responsible for the selection of localities where fishery piers and harbours should be erected, and for the sum spent at each place, the Board of Works having charge of the designing and execution of the work, and the grand jury having the duty of maintaining the works when complete, through their officers the county surveyors. No one of these three bodies has control over the decision or actions of any other, and while the first two are departments of Government, the third is an independent local authority. This state of things, combined with differences of opinion, which naturally arise upon such

subjects has, as might have been expected, led to serious friction between the three bodies, which, in the County Donegal, reached such a point in 1894 as to make it necessary for the Lord Lieutenant to obtain a special inspection and report from an independent engineer of eminence, the late Mr. Thomas Stevenson, whose report (C. 4668, 1895) deals with the point then at issue in that county. The evils of the division of responsibility between two Government Departments have already been noticed by Government, for we observe that in 1899 the distribution of the money then affected was made by a special Committee, on which both were represented, and power was given in the Act of 1894 (last paragraph of Section 2) for the inspectors and their Parliamentary colleagues to object to the engineering details proposed by the Board of Works. This power, however, did not become operative, the inspectors not being able to make any useful criticisms on the sketch plans sent them by the Board of Works, while the latter maintained that they were practically unable to give fuller details at that stage of the discussion. The situation in regard to the administration of the Act of 1885 seems to have been complicated by the fact that very divergent views existed as to the division of responsibility under this Act. Mr. Blake held (Questions 9957-9) that the Board of Works might have withdrawn any proposal of the Commission over which he presided had they seen fit to do so. Col. Nolan (Question 9977) thought the Board of Works had no such power. Sir Thomas Brady, Senior Fishery Inspector (Question 19486) thinks that the engineers of the Board might with advantage have advised himself and his colleagues on the engineering aspect of their proposal, while Mr. Manning, engineer of the Board of Works (Questions 19614, 19734-39, 19763-53) explained that in his antagonism the sole responsibility for the expenditure under this Act rested with the Board.

18532a. That is the Board of Works?—Yes.—But that his view was overruled within his own department, and a contrary one adopted.

18533. I think what you have read is sufficient.—The Commissioners then state "We cannot shut our eyes to the fact disclosed by this and other circumstances, that there has been often serious personal friction between the two departments, such as ought not to exist between different servants of the Crown." Then they say that "Sites have been selected and estimates made of the amount of money to be spent at various places without any competent professional advice, and without any certainty that the same spent would produce any valuable result."

18534. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What time do you fix as the time when the inspectors of fisheries got power to manage the fisheries?—1870.

18535. But from 1829 to 1870 there was no body with efficient powers?—At the time of the famine of 1832 there was a large fund collected which became a Fisheries Loan Fund afterwards, and it was administered all through those years by a private society. The Governor of the Bank of Ireland, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and various other people, were ex officio members of that society, but it was not supervised by the State. In 1870 those funds were transferred to the Inspectors of Fisheries, and they practically became a Fishery Board though they had not any great authority.

18536. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Had they powers for building piers and harbours?—No; the inspectors of fisheries had no power for building piers at any time.

18537. But all the others had?—Yes.

18538. It seems to be a reversal of the ordinary rule when practical men had not the charge of the selection of the sites of piers?—That is what I wish to say, and it led them to a terrible waste of money.

18539. Then as to the £3,000 allotted to Ireland at the time of the abolition of the bounties for the building of harbours, who administered that?—That was administered by the Board of Works. One member of the Board of Works was appointed as the Fishery Commissioner of the Board of Works; but it was only a small amount at the time; he might do things that had been commenced by the old Fishery Board, and it died out. I think that fund began with £5,000 and went down to £6,000 and £3,000 and was to finish in five years, and when that fund was spent then there was no more.

18540. I was not aware of that. Are you aware that our £3,000 was the fund out of which all the fishery piers in Scotland were built?—I am aware that £3,000 is allotted to that purpose in Scotland.

18541. Yes, that is all that has been allotted for fishery piers, but of course it has been continued since 1829?—Yes.

18542. And your £3,000 has been lost, has it?—Oh, yes; it was not a fixed sum per annum. It was for five years merely to wind up.

18543. I did not gather that. It was under the Act of 1829, and it is there distinctly stated that the sums to be allotted to the fisheries are £3,000 to Scotland and £3,500 to Ireland. They were on the same basis as far as I can remember in that Act, and I was anxious to know how it has been lost to Ireland. But practically I may tell you that there was no difference stated in the Act, because I was reading it quite recently, and the conditions under which the money was left to Scotland and to Ireland were the same under that Act?—I cannot put my hand on it at the present time but I know that the question was raised several times whether this fund was continuously available, and the opinion of the law officers was taken upon it, and their opinion was given that the money allotted by that Act was not intended to be continuous.

18544. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you know when it ceased?—The whole question arose over the Act of 1842. When that Act was passed which codified all the Irish fishery statutes there was a clause in it which seemed to be ambiguous about the continuance of the fund, and some people held that that fund was still due, and it was a very large sum on account of having accumulated, and the opinion of the Law Officers was taken. I cannot put my hand on their opinion, but I am sure I can get it.

18545. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In confirmation of what you say, Mr. Green, there is an interesting book published in the last few years by a Mr. Johnstone on the fisheries, and in that book Mr. Johnstone says that the £3,000 was continued to Scotland, while the £3,000 to Ireland ceased altogether.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They are in the same clause—£3,000 to Scotland and £3,500 to Ireland.

18546. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Johnstone conveys that the money to Ireland has not been paid since?—It has not been paid since, and the whole thing was gone into by the Government and decided by the Law Officers.

18547. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I do not understand what time you say it ceased?—It ceased five years after 1850. I should suppose it ceased about 1855, and the Irish Fishery Board was abolished in 1858.

18548. And that was abolished with it?—And that was abolished with it. A certain grant was made, to wind up certain obligations that had been undertaken, and when that job was done the fund ceased automatically, but when the Act of 1842 was passed there was an ambiguous clause in it which led some people to think that that fund was intended to be continuous.

18549. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you an annual fund at all for building fishery piers in Ireland?—The Inspectors of Fisheries had not any fund at all.

18550. Has any body at all?—No, no permanent funds at all.

18551. I thought that possibly the £3,000 might be given in some other way?—They are not getting it in any form. Grants were made from time to time for the construction of fishery piers, and they were disposed by temporary Commissions appointed to deal with them, but the expenditure was disposed of in one or two years. A small proportion was given in the way of loans, and when those loans were repaid the money was expended again by direction of the Executive.

18552. Sir JOHN COCKRENE.—Can you say that there is no fund at all for building fishery piers—surely there is a fund?—I think what Mr. Sutherland asked me was this, whether the Fishery Inspectors, that were practically the Irish Fishery Board, had any funds for building piers, and I was speaking of how things were before the Congested Districts Board was established, because the Congested Districts Board got funds to spend on anything they liked in the Congested Districts. They might spend it on piers or on roads, or on agriculture. Then that had only reference to the Congested Districts. When the Department of Agriculture was started in the year 1890 a sum was allotted to them per annum for fishery

Feb. 14, 1907.

Mr. W.
Spencer
Green.

maters, including the improvement of fishery piers in Ireland.

18553. You mean the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department?—Yes.

18554. Then there are three bodies with money for building piers, the Congested Districts Board, the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, and the Department for administering marine works.

18555. Mr. BAYNE.—The Board of Agriculture and the Congested Districts Board do not overlap?—They do not overlap.

18556. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But during that period when there was no regular annual sum set apart for the purpose or no regular fund, there were intermittent grants by Parliament?—Oh, certainly.

18557. Should you say that those intermittent grants did in fact produce an average of at least £3,000 per annum?—I should think so.

18558. So that although the income was not as regular as in Scotland it was, in point of fact, by intermittent grants about as high?—It was about as high, but then, unfortunately, the system in Scotland has been that the people who were administering the fisheries and the money were spending it from time to time carefully and cautiously, whereas the money that was given by big grants of from £50,000 to £250,000 at a time has been spent within two years or so.

18559. Of course, these are two entirely different questions, but what I wanted to get was that as I understand from you that the sum given to Ireland was, though an intermittent sum, equivalent to that given to Scotland?—Yes.

18560. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I should like to ask you a question of a rather general character, Mr. Green. I would ask you is there anything in the habits of fish along the coast or in their migration or movement which, in your opinion, would make the Scotch fisheries more valuable and more productive than the Irish fisheries, or anything in the movement of fish along the Scotch coast which, other things being equal, ought to make the Scotch fisheries as a whole more valuable and productive than the Irish fisheries as a whole?—Well, I think, Sir Anthony, there are reasons at present existing, but they did not always exist, and I have seen in some of the old books that I have referred to in Memorandum B* that owing to the quantity of herrings on the Irish coast the Irish had an advantage. The herrings were also said to be permanent on the Irish coast and only occasional visitors in Scotland. Now, the thing for the last fifty years, at all events, has been quite reversed, because all along the coast of Scotland and up to the Shetland Isles and the Western Isles the herrings are constant. The present condition of things seems to be that the Scotch have a great herring fishing, a mine of enormous value, practically at their doors, and in addition to that they are directly in railway communication with the English markets, and they are close to Germany, where a great deal of their fish goes.

18561. To what extent would you measure the difference caused by that in the productiveness of the fisheries of the two countries?—Assuming the same facilities in both countries for catching fish—which is an assumption not based on the facts—do you think that the Scotch fishery from these circumstances you mention ought to be three times as productive as the Irish fishery?—It is not easy to say, because the fishing has changed from time to time. I think I might answer you this way, Sir Anthony, that there was no herring fishing at all, no curing of herrings going on in Ireland for sixty years, no herring cured for export, while at that time the Scotch herring fishing was worth about a million of money per annum. Of course, the North Sea is a very large area compared with the Irish Sea. Then inside of the Hebrides is a sheltered area where they are able to fish in shelter more or less, while the West coast of Ireland is extremely exposed, because most of the winds are westerly; but the east coasts of Scotland and of England are most favourably situated for fishing, and there the great fishing has been carried on. Roughly speaking, the North Sea herring area is four times as large as the Irish Sea herring area, with which physically it can be compared. The West of Scotland has two areas—in the lochs and outside the islands; the West of Ireland area is not equal to these combined, but is more nearly equal than the eastern areas. The physical features of the eastern areas are more favourable for continuous fishing.

Scotland in this respect is better as 4 to 1. For the western fisheries by about 4 to 3, but, per square mile, the Irish waters are as good as the Scotch, and the western herrings are the better fish.

18562. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You are comparing the West coast of Ireland with the East coast of Scotland?—Yes.

18563. Sir JOHN CAZELL.—You also spoke of the West coast of Scotland?—Yes; you have the islands there on your weather hand, so that you have shelter.

18564. Mr. BAYNE.—The fishing on the West coast of Scotland is entirely outside the Long Island?—Yes, partly.

18565. There is very little fish inside the Long Island?—Yes.

18566. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Let me put my question to you this way. The value of the fish—excluding shell-fish, caught in Scotland in the year of your last report, 1906, was £2,648,148, and the value of the fish caught in Ireland for the same year, also excluding shell-fish, was in round numbers £360,000. Now, is there anything in the movements of fish along the coasts of both countries to justify such a disparity as that?—Well, Sir Anthony, you must separate that figure into two parts, the herrings on the one hand and trawl fish on the other. With regard to the herrings, I say we have at present nothing like the same amount of herring fishing on the Irish coast as there is on the Scotch coast.

18567. The value of the fish landed in Ireland is one-seventh that of the fish landed in Scotland?—Yes.

18568. The Scotch fishery is seven times as productive as the Irish fishery?—Yes, but for that purpose I would separate the two things, and, I think, Mr. Sutherland will bear me out, or, with his great experience, will correct me if I am wrong. I say it is necessary when you consider the Scotch fishery to consider the herring fishing as a thing apart from the other fishing, and, therefore, I come round to the second fishing, the trawl fishing, and the trade into the port of Aberdeen by the steam trawlers is enormous.

18569. That is going to another part of the question, and to which I will ask you later. What I want to know now is whether there is anything in the distribution of the fish to justify such a disparity as exists at present in the productiveness of the fisheries in both countries. If you say that you do not think there is anything in the natural facts to justify that disparity I am then going to ask you whether there is in the manner in which the two countries have been treated anything to justify that disparity?—Well, I think I may say that the Irish coast fisheries are just as valuable as the Scotch coast fisheries.

18570. Therefore, there is nothing in the physical fact of the distribution of the fish which is a sufficient explanation of the disparity of the figures that I have quoted?—There is not.

18571. Now, you mentioned that in Scotland there is a greater distribution of railways and harbours and the fish are brought into touch with the markets more effectively than in Ireland?—More effectively.

18572. That is one explanation?—That is one explanation.

18573. Now, is there any explanation in the existence of better harbour accommodation in Scotland for fishing purposes than in Ireland?—The natural harbours in Ireland are not on the east coast. On the east coast there are better harbours in Scotland than there are on the east coast of Ireland.

18574. Natural harbours or harbours created?—Harbours created; artificial harbours.

18575. Then there has been greater attention given to the creation of fishing harbours in Scotland than there has been in Ireland?—There has, certainly.

18576. It follows, of course, that there has been a larger expenditure in Scotland?—Yes.

18577. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I do not see that it follows that the expenditure has been larger?—I do not know that it follows exactly.

18578. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I accept the Chairman's explanation that it does not follow that there has been actually larger expenditure, but more effective expenditure?—Not necessarily larger expenditure, but certainly more effective expenditure.

18579. You can go into the question of the magnitude of the expenditure afterwards; but if there had been as effective an expenditure in Ireland on fisheries apparently the result would have been a more productive state of the fisheries at the present time?—To

Feb. 14, 1897.
Mr. W.
Spence
Green.

a small extent, but not to a very great extent. It would be nothing at all comparable to the volume of fish caught. If the harbours of Ireland were so improved as to be brought up to the condition of those on the east coast of Scotland it would not make a very great difference.

18580. If there had been an effective expenditure in Ireland, similar to the effective expenditure in Scotland, the condition of the Irish fisheries would be different from what it is now?—They would be better than they are now.

18581. Is it possible by an effective expenditure on Irish harbours and on appliances for fisheries in Ireland to increase considerably the productivity of the Irish fisheries and the value of the fisheries to the country?—So far as the inshore fisheries are concerned, yes; but in no possible way could you bring the value of the fish landed in Ireland up to the value of what is landed in Scotland.

18582. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Why?—I think what brings up the great bulk of the fish in Scotland is, after the herring fishery of the North Sea, largely due to the fish landed by steam trawlers in Aberdeen. These figures are separated in another column in the Report which Sir Antony has*; and this trawl fish, which forms so large a proportion of the total for Scotland, comes not from the coast fisheries of Scotland, but from the whale of the North Sea and from Iceland and from the Faroe Islands, and from the Bay of Biscay, and from the Irish coast and other places.

18583. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—If there had been harbours in Ireland suitable for the reception of steam trawlers would not the same result have followed in Ireland as in Scotland?—Certainly not.

18584. Why?—Because the whale of the west coast of Ireland is at present fished by steam trawlers, and they do not deliver in Ireland.

18585. They would get a share?—They don't land any of it in Ireland, and they would not land any of it in Ireland no matter what harbours you had.

18586. It is a matter of transport?—Yes, but those steam trawlers come from countries where there are ice factories and where there is direct communication with large markets.

18587. Take such a proposal as the Blackrock Bay Scheme. If such a scheme as that were carried out what would there be to prevent steam trawlers from landing their fish at Blackrock Bay and having it conveyed to England and other parts of the United Kingdom? Is it not a matter of communication?—If a railway was opened to Blackrock Bay and Broadhaven we could probably develop mackerel, herring, and other fisheries, which might be worth anything from £5,000 to £10,000 per annum to the district, according as the people took up the work. All round the west coast of Ireland there are large numbers of steam trawlers fishing; and the worst of it is that while in Scotland the catch of trawlers that fish hundreds of miles from the coast is brought into Scotch ports and is included in the Scotch fishery statistics, the fish caught on the Irish coast is landed to a very large extent by these steam trawlers either in Milford or in Fleetwood, and the fish caught off the Irish coast, which would bring up the bulk of the Irish statistics to certainly double what they are at present, is included in the statistics for England by being landed in Milford and Fleetwood. The steam trawler finds it more economical to go direct, with the fish packed in ice in his hold, to one of these ports where the fish can get on the railway direct to the market, than to break bulk at Galway or Blackrock Bay or anywhere else, and have the fish transhipped three times with the result that the ice would melt. The fish would get into the markets of the great centres of population in England in better condition by the steamer going direct to England than it could possibly do by landing anywhere in Ireland. They have tried to land it in Ireland occasionally, but very rarely.

18588. At all events, the provision of better harbours in Ireland would stimulate a trawling trade in Ireland. Trawlers might be owned by Irishmen, and might take to fishing upon the west coast. If they found it beneficial or profitable they would take to fishing?—Our western bays are worked by sailing trawlers which deliver fish in Ireland. A considerable number of steam trawlers are also owned in Ireland.

18589. Is there along the whole west coast of Ireland a harbour suitable for the reception of steam trawlers? Is there any fishing harbours with the exception of one

or two?—Killybegs would be suitable. Galway was tried for a time, but it is tidal. Fout is admirably suited, because it is in direct railway communication with Dublin and the North Wall, and has deep water.

18590. You mentioned—I don't know that it was a considered statement of yours—that if you had £250,000 to expend you could do a great deal of good by providing harbours in Ireland?—I think we could.

18591. And do you say that the harbours which have been hitherto created and made have not been altogether successful instances of engineering ability?—They are very good as regards engineering.

18592. I have seen some of them which are inland harbours, if I may so express myself?—But then the engineering is very good.

18593. You can neither embark from them nor land from them. If there were £250,000 to expend do you think it would be better expended by authorities in Ireland, controlled from Ireland, or expended as the money has hitherto been expended?—I think it would most certainly be better to have it controlled by authorities in Ireland who could have experience, not merely a short experience gained by going and making one or two inspections of the place, but who would feel the needs and wants of the coast, and would then gradually expend the money.

18594. And who would consult local ideas?—And know the local conditions and know absolutely what is necessary to make the thing successful.

18595. The net result of my questions I take to be this: That there is no such disparity in the movements of the fish along the Irish coast and the movements of the fish along the Scotch coast as to account for the disparity in the productivity of the fisheries in the two countries?—There is not.

18596. That Scotland has been far better provided with facilities for fishing than Ireland has been within the same compass of time?—It is much better situated for the fish trade.

18597. That is not my point. My point is, that Scotland has been better provided with the facilities that are required for fishing than Ireland has been?—It has.

18598. Within the same period of time?—It has, certainly.

18599. That an expenditure of a considerable sum of money in Ireland would greatly enhance the productivity of the Irish fisheries?—I think so.

18600. And that it is highly desirable that the control and direction of that expenditure should be vested in an Irish body?—I think so.

18601. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you assert that the difference in the development of the fisheries of Scotland and of those of Ireland is caused entirely by the difference in expenditure?—I think that the trade grew in Scotland, and as the trade grew facilities had to be provided for it.

18602. But you would not say that there has been a greater amount of money spent on the development of the fisheries of Scotland than on those of Ireland in the same period?—I would not, except that the Fishery Board and the herring board were maintained in Scotland up to 1859 at the cost of the State.

18603. You think it is the other way?—I don't know that there was any sum spent on the development of fisheries in Scotland.

18604. Quod fisheries?—Quod fisheries. I do not think there was any public money spent on boats in Scotland, except a very few loans granted in the Hebrides; but I know this, that as the trade developed facilities for it had to be provided, and in the case of a harbour like Bunkie or some of these places, with only one small dock, as the years went on, another dock was built outside it, and later on other piers had to be run out, as the fish trade was growing all the time.

18605. The advantage Scotland had was it a policy of confidence?—Its great advantage was its situation.

18606. But with regard to piers and harbours?—Yes, the treatment was systematic.

18607. And that the fishery body had the control of the selection of the site?—Yes. I think it makes all the difference when expenditure has to be made, whether the authority making the expenditure has long experience of what is wanted. Such an authority would be much more useful than any commission that might be appointed, no matter how clever it might be about other matters, more especially if the latter had to decide about the expenditure in a very short time and from hearsay.

* See Twenty-fourth Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland (Ct. 1896, 1896).

Feb. 14, 1907.

Mr. W.
Spencer
Groom.

18608. I thought you were a little too pessimistic in regard to the question that Sir Antony was putting to you as to the possibility of the development of the fisheries of Ireland. Are you of opinion that there might be as good herring fishing off the coast of Ireland as on the coast of Scotland?—I think so; if there were harbours in proper places built to enable us to keep boats that would be fit to take part in it. We have had on the Donegal coast a terrible lesson about that only two months ago, when we had twelve splendid boats thrown ashore and utterly lost.

18609. You are aware that in the development of the herring fishing in Scotland in recent years the direction in which it has been developed is by the extension of the time in which herrings can be got?—Yes.

18610. And you are also aware that twenty or thirty years ago fishermen did not believe they could be got at times when they are got now?—Yes.

18611. Therefore they did not go to sea, and consequently did not catch them?—Yes.

18612. Now that they believe they are there they go and get them all the year round?—Yes, but not from the same places.

18613. May not that state of things arise in Ireland?—It may arise in Ireland, but there is one difference in it. The reason they are able to fish for them all the year round in Scotland is they have large boats able to travel farther to sea.

18614. But that is a result?—Yes. In the days gone by there were only boats capable of going ten or twelve miles from the coast.

18615. Because fishermen thought herrings were not so big beyond that?—Yes. Then they got boats able to go 100 miles. But if we in Ireland were to think that we would get fish off in the Atlantic when we could not get them near shore we would certainly have great difficulty in keeping the expensive boats going, owing to the unfavourable weather.

18616. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Boats that could go into the deep sea off the Scotch coast and fish continuously could not face the seas in the Atlantic continuously, however big and well-fitted they were?—That is my point. You could not hope to fish so continuously with drift nets in the Atlantic as you can in the North Sea.

18617-8. That would to an extent modify the deductions you draw from the questions asked you by Sir Antony just now as to the possible equalization of the fish harvest of the Irish coast to that of the Scotch coast?—Yes; and there is one thing I would add before I pass on. I have spoken of the west coast of Ireland having this weather difficulty attached to it. When we deal with the waters of the Irish Sea we have no such possibilities as Mr. Sturges pointed out might exist without our knowing of them, because though the boats did not go far enough off from the coast of Scotland in the days gone by, to find that they could keep up a continuous fishing all the year round the boats do go from the east coast of Ireland, or if they don't go from the east coast of Ireland they go from the Isle of Man, and the whole of the water on that side of Ireland that it is possible to fish is fished so there is no unknown possibility in that direction. There may be unknown possibilities in the Atlantic.

18619. Is the supply of fish on the east coast continuous or is it intermittent, as on the west coast?—It has fluctuated through a great range of figures.

18620. That is from year to year. But I wish to know as regards the periods of the year. We have been saying that one of the advantages of the Scotch coast is that they fish the herrings continuously throughout the year. I want to know whether the result of experience along the eastern coast has been that generally the fish supply is constant throughout the year?—It is not constant.

18621. There are periods when there is no fishing?—Yes.

18622. What are those periods, roughly?—They have differed so enormously this last year from the normal that it is very hard to say, but from July to November was the usual time when herrings were caught from Howth up to Ardglass and this year the fish were later. That is practically the period of

fishing in that part of the Irish Sea where the herrings are caught.

18623. Irrespective of variation, how many months of the year would you put down as a dead season on the east coast?—There are six months of a dead season on the east coast as far as herrings are concerned.

18624. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You said the steam trawling was given as a different figure from that quoted by Sir Antony?—No; I think the figure quoted by Sir Antony is the total.

18625. But you said that the steam trawling boats coming into Aberdeen were given as a separate return?—In another column. The different fishings are given under separate headings.

18626. How much of the £2,600,000 is due to steam trawling?—I think about half. In 1905 the steam trawling fishery was worth just a million.

18627. It is not quite half?—No. It was £943,000.

18628. You consider that that sum ought to be isolated from the gross return in order to get a true comparison between the Irish and Scotch fisheries?—It is that so?—Yes.

18629. Sir ANTOY MacDONNELL.—Not the whole of it?—Not the whole of it.

18630. I understand that what Mr. Kavanagh means is: How much of that represents fish which is caught on the Irish coast and which, if we had inshore waters, would be caught by us?—None of this practically, because any Scotch trawler that fish off the Irish coast deliver at Fleetwood.

18631. Mr. STURGES.—That would be credited to England?—Yes.

18632. Sir JOHN COLON.—Do I understand you to say that the presence of fish off the coast of Ireland is as constant as off the coast of Scotland?—In the inshore waters, I think so.

18633. But taking the inshore and offshore waters together and looking at the thing broadly, would you say that the fish are as constant off the Irish coast?—It is very hard to say what you mean by offshore waters in Scotland, because the offshore waters of Scotland mean Ireland.*

18634. Don't they mean it for Ireland, too?—No. There are steam trawlers owned in Ireland that never land a tail of a fish in Ireland, but fish from Milford and other ports. There are nine steam trawlers owned in Dublin that fish for the Dublin market alone. They do deliver in Ireland, but if they were going in for general fishing and were not running for that particular market they would not deliver in Ireland. That particular market is almost supplied by the nine steam trawlers. Some of the steam trawlers owned in Ireland deliver in Milford because at that place they are brought in touch with the big markets that they want to enter for. If in Ireland there was a population equal to and as wealthy as that of England you would probably see that there would be as much fish landed in Ireland as there is landed in England.

18635. Sir ANTOY MacDONNELL.—There is as large a population in Ireland as there is in Scotland. Why don't you have the same amount of fish landed, if it is a matter of population?—Scotland eats a very small portion of the fish landed there, but the facilities for transit by direct rail from Aberdeen to England are greater than anything we can have.

18636. The facilities for transit would have reduced the price of the fish per ton?—The market for the Scotch fish and for the Irish fish is the large centres of population, in the midlands of England.

18637. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean that the Scotch fishery feeds England and the Irish fishery does not feed England, and cannot be made to feed England?—A very large proportion of the Irish fish goes to England. Almost every bit of the spring mackerel caught in Ireland and the shell fish go to England. Selling boats fishing off the Irish coast must land their fish in Ireland, with steamers it is different.

18638. Sir JOHN COLON.—Take the Irish trawl fishing. Am I to understand you to say that no matter how good the harbour accommodation in Ireland, and whatever local erections you may put up for

* I think the following definitions may be useful:—

1. Inland waters

(a) Coast fisheries to those that may be worked by row boats.

(b) Inshore fisheries to those which selling vessels may work, and return to port every day with their catch.

(c) Offshore fisheries—anywhere further at sea than the inshore.

It is the direction of a and b that developments useful to the maritime population must chiefly be looked for.—W. S. G.

the convenience of vessels landing their fish, the travelling fishing boats—take them right away up to Greenland—would not be attracted to Ireland, but would continue to go to England?—They would certainly continue to go to England.

18638. That is due to the natural necessity for getting fish to the markets and the consumer as soon and as cheaply as possible?—Yes, without breaking bulk.

18640. Is it not also not merely a question of the fish to be consumed in the home market, but the great export market to the Continent which by reason of the east coast of Scotland and of the North of England being on the North Sea, causes the ports on those coasts to be the best ports for shipment to the Continent, after the process of curing has been completed?—That is one of their advantages, and it enables distributing markets to be maintained providing unlimited demand.

18641. Therefore, whatever you do you cannot expect by artificial means to put Ireland in as good a position to reap the benefit of her fisheries? You cannot owing to her geographical position, except you would have equal facilities for the home market of England and the Continental market?—I think not, but I would like to say this, that what I have been speaking of principally is the fresh fish trade, because you come to an entirely different set of circumstances when you are dealing with the curing trade.

18643. Let me take the curing trade. Would there not be a difference of freight for transmission from the west coast of Ireland to the Russian and German ports? Would not a greater freight have to be paid than from the East of Scotland?—There would be, but we are quite ready to pay for that, because the excellence of the Irish herrings is sufficient to pay for the difference.

18645. That is very important. You think that the export cured herring from Ireland would be so superior to that exported from Scotland that in the foreign markets, the markets of Russia, the Netherlands and Germany, the Irish fish would hold its own?—Certainly.

18646. By reason of its superiority?—Yes.

18645. And that this would pay for the difference due to the disadvantages of geographical situation?—Yes. There is no difficulty at all with regard to the cured fish trade in disposing of it. Therefore, what we want is harbours so suitable as to develop those fisheries which we would be able to develop on equal terms with Scotland, England or anywhere else.

18646. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I should like to call your attention for a moment to the fresh fish trade. It has been estimated that the annual value of the fresh fish landed in Scotland is about £2,500,000 a year. What is the value of the fish landed in the United Kingdom in a year?—In England it is about £7,000,000.

18647. And for the United Kingdom it is about £10,000,000?—Yes. It is about £10,000,000 altogether.

18648. The value of the fresh fish landed in Ireland is not £400,000 a year. It is only one-twenty-fifth of the total value of the fish landed in the British Isles. Make all allowances for fishing facilities in Scotland for the convenience to market and for transit facilities, and make similar allowances in the case of England, and do you not think that the value of the fresh fish landed in Ireland should be much more than one-twenty-fifth of the total value for the United Kingdom?—I think that is a rather dangerous and difficult question to answer rightly, because I might be quite misconstructed. I must answer it rather indirectly. The question really is this. There will be as much fish landed on the Irish coast as the people will buy to export or to eat, and it is all turns upon that. The English people will buy £7,000,000 worth of fish, and the Irish people could not buy it because to export it fresh they should pay freight to England, and they could not eat it.

18649. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you say that if the people of Ireland would consume more fish, you know of no reason why more fish should not be caught and landed?—I know of no reason beyond the fact that the great distributing markets of England are the safest markets for the fisherman to cater for.

18650. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Why cannot you get fresh fish in an Irish country town—why are you told that all the fish is sent off to London and elsewhere?—Is not it a well-known fact that there is a great demand for fish in many parts of Ireland?—

There is, and much of the fish consumed in Ireland comes from the English distributing markets as wanted, but is not shown in our statistics. Quite recently at my suggestion the Department of Agriculture sent a special commissioner with a good knowledge of the fish trade to all the principal country towns in Ireland to endeavour to hold out inducements for the development of the sale of fish, and we have his reports—and they are very interesting reports. He visited all the persons whom we got the names of who might be expected to go in for opening fish shops. We have been working at it, and don't intend to let it drop.

18651. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do the reports of this gentleman indicate that you probably could increase the market for fish in the towns which he visited?—You say they were interesting. You do not say whether they were encouraging?—To some extent.

18652. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Irish consumption is of some importance, and we know that much cured fish is imported from year to year into Ireland. But, as showing what was thought of the fruitfulness of Irish waters both by foreigners and by English fishermen, I may refer to an extract from the report of the Commission of 1870:—"During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the English and Scotch fishermen preferred fishing on the Irish coast to their own, and in spite of much opposition, the native fishermen appear to have prosecuted their calling most industriously and successfully." During those centuries the Irish waters were looked on as more fruitful than the waters you have referred to off the coast of Scotland. The report also mentions:

"Besides the sums received from individual fishermen of different nations, the Dutch gave Charles the First £30,000 for the privilege of fishing off the West Coast. In 1586 Philip the Second of Spain agreed to pay £1,000 a year for twenty years for permission to fish on the Northern Coast, and in 1650 Sweden, in recompense for services to England, was permitted to send 100 vessels to the Irish fisheries." You in your reports have gone into an historical account of the Irish fisheries in the eighteenth century. Does not it look from all these historical accounts as if the Irish waters were permanently fruitful?—They have been very fruitful at different times and in different places.

18653. Would it appeal to you as an explanation of the small total value of fresh fish that is down to Ireland's account that until within the last twenty years, or the last quarter of a century, there was no public authority fully established and furnished with means and powers to promote the Irish fisheries?—I think that they might have been revived before they were revived if an authority of that sort and with funds had existed.

18654. Do you recollect how many men were engaged on the Irish coast at the Irish fisheries in the year before the famine?—There was a great number. I have given the numbers in my memorandum.

18655. Nearly 100,000 men and boys were engaged, while at the present day the number is only 20,000?—That is so.

18656. Would it not be an interesting thing if we had a return for the three counties of the men employed in fishing operations, the vessels employed, and the money taken to each county, or at least the money value of the fish brought into each county?—I have gone into this question to a small extent myself, and if I go to compare the earnings of an Irish fisherman with the earnings of an English fisherman, I find that the Irish fishermen in many cases, taking considerably large numbers, have earned more than the English fisherman.

18657. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you speaking of any particular period?—Take a man who has been successful, moderately successful at the herring or mackerel fishing—he has earned more, and his share is more at the end of the year than many a fisherman at Grimsby or Hull.

18658. Mr. STURTELL.—But not in Scotland?—Or sometimes in Scotland. Very few men there have had their living and £100.

Mr. STURTELL.—£600 or £700 in Scotland.

18659. Mr. BYRNE.—Per man?—Per man. The reason is in the capital that is invested, and it is the capital that causes the fish to be landed, the machinery that has been created by capital, and when you have

Feb. 16, 1907

Mr. W.
Spencer
Green.

Feb. 14, 1907.

Mr. W.
Spivey
Green.

a steam trawler she may land £1,000 worth of fish in a month, but the men don't earn in proportion to the fish landed as they do in Ireland.

18565. Most Hon. Mr. O'DONNELL.—That is easily understood, because the fast-going vessels cost a great deal to work and maintain.—It is the steam and the coal that are catching the fish.*

18566. Would you consider that the small number of these first-class fishing vessels owned in Ireland is very closely connected with the small proportion of the general value of the fish of the British Isles that comes into Ireland?—I know there is a great deal of fish comes into Ireland that is not caught there.

18567. Is not the number of first-class vessels owned in Ireland very small?—Yes, and it is getting smaller.

18568. Do you think would it be a desirable direction in which to work, to endeavour to secure for Irish fishermen a bigger, better, and faster class of boat?—The opinion of the fishermen now is that these larger class of boats don't pay, and though there are 700 of them now, I find that the tendency of the fishermen is to go back to the smaller class of boats, and instead of having boats of forty to fifty tons to go back to boats of twenty and twenty-five tons.

18569. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That is another way of saying they prefer fishing close to the coast instead of going out to sea?—It is so. They find that pays better unless they could get cormorants.

18570. Most Hon. Mr. O'DONNELL.—Would not you expect that if these crews which first fished in small yachts, and afterwards fished very often at the herring fishery in Zulu boats, went to the spring herring fishing in big boats would continue their development as fishermen, and learn to pursue the herrings wherever they were found?—I think it is most desirable where you have got a valuable fishery, as there is off the coast of Donegal, to let the men get larger and larger boats just as they find them pay, but on the other side of Ireland, where the men used to take the large mackerel boats up to Shetland and fish there for herrings, many of these men to whom I have spoken would be very willing now to sell their large boats and get smaller boats. There are two reasons for this. The upsurge of the large boats is very heavy, and when they go to the Shetlands now instead of being able to make money, as they formerly did, they come into competition with the steam drifters, and the markets are not what they were for the large sailing boats.

18571. Why should the Irish fishermen not aspire to steam drifters?—The development of steam is not favourable to the employment of a large number of fishermen.

18572. It is not of much importance now to go into the comparative expenditure in the different countries, but as the matter has been mentioned it might be as well to be accurate. Was not there a Parliamentary return prepared a few years ago giving the expenditure on piers in the three countries?—I don't remember it.

18573. I think I have got it, and it shows how much has been expended on piers in Ireland as compared with piers in England and Scotland; but of course it would not be any guide on the much more important question of a good selection by a proper controlling body in fixing sites for piers. With reference to that point of expenditure, however, do you recollect that the money expended on bounties in Ireland to encourage Irish fishermen was not as much as it was in Scotland?—That is a fact. It did not go on as long. It went on only half the time.

18574. In Ireland it went on from 1819 to 1829, and the sum expended was £163,370. In Scotland it went on from 1809 to 1830, and the sum expended was £337,110?—Those figures are correct.

18575. Mr. STERLING.—But of course it is necessary to remember that the bounties were payments by result?—Yes. They were paid on result.

18576. On the fish landed?—Yes, and on the tonnage of boats.

18577. The amount of fish landed was the most important element?—Yes.

18578. Most Hon. Mr. O'DONNELL.—From all we know, anything that was done to encourage fishing in Scotland was very well deserved, and had most useful results?—It had most useful results.

18579. Have you been doing anything lately in the

matter of a brand for mackerel?—Yes; we have held a number of inquiries all around the coast in consequence of it being pressed on my department to establish a brand for Irish mackerel.

18580. What has been the result?—We have taken a great deal of evidence, but I cannot give the result yet without having had time to consider the evidence; but it seems quite plain that the curers in Ireland have the matter very much in their own hands, because the very conditions that are fulfilled by the Norwegians and Americans in grading the fish can be carried out in Ireland without any brand, and if there was a brand the first thing we would have to insist upon would be this very grading.

18581. You don't require a brand for your herrings, I understand?—No; the herrings are sufficiently good.

18582. Without a brand do they command the highest price in the market?—They have fetched the highest price ever got for herrings in the market.

18583. Mr. STERLING.—What was the highest price you ever got for Downings Bay herrings?—We got 36 roubles in Russia, and we got 50 marks in Germany.

18584. Most Hon. Mr. O'DONNELL.—When we were down at Hurlport some of the people were not fully informed as to the development of the herring fishery off the coast. Was it the Congested Districts Board brought about that development?—The Congested Districts Board brought about the curing of herrings. The very first year of the Board's work there (1892) we began curing a small quantity, and ever since the industry has developed, and it has gradually passed into the hands of the trade.

18585. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—As regards the superiority of the Irish fish, do you attribute that to their being a different sort of fish, better fish, or to their being better cured? Is it entirely in the curing of the fish that the superiority consists?—It is in the quality of the fish. Of course you must have it properly cured, but the curers are the most expert curers you could possibly have. Some of them had been Aberdeen.

18586. I thought that the fish that come down the west coast of Ireland were really the same fish, just travelling round the coast? We have no knowledge that herrings travel any distance at all. The general presumption is that they are rather local schools, and the idea of their coming down from Greenland and splitting on the Shetlands, one half going down the North Sea, and one half going down the west coast of Scotland is pretty well exploded.

18587. Mr. STERLING.—It is a fact that there is very little difference between the Castle Bay herrings and the Downings Bay?—Yes. Both are in the same waters.

18588. Mr. BAYNE.—There is a difference between east coast and Atlantic herrings?—Yes. One thing proving that the Downings Bay herring must be something better than the Castle Bay herring is that we caught some gentlemen in Castle Bay branding their herrings "Downings Bay."

18589. Mr. STERLING.—We caught them for you?—You helped to catch them for us.

18590. Mr. BAYNE.—If you were to go 100 miles outside the west coast of Ireland, where nobody goes to fish herrings, as I understand, as they go 100 miles outside the coast of Scotland into the North Sea to catch herrings, would you catch herrings at the distance I have mentioned from the Irish coast?—In our scientific explorations we go about 100 miles, and a systematic study is being made by the Department's scientific staff of all that area with a view to determine the physical changes which cause the movements of fish. Some of our crew are fishermen, and they would mention if they see anything like schools of fish. We have also, from time to time, employed Scotch or other first-class boats to do some scouting, and the Department for two years maintained a large beach for that purpose.

18591. How far off the coast are the fish caught that are now being caught off Lewin?—Not very far.

18592. Twenty or thirty miles?—Yes, I should think at the outside.

18593. Does anybody fish twenty or thirty miles off the west coast of Ireland at present?—No, except in steam trawlers.

* With regard to above the following figures are suggestive:—In England the catching of 47,000,000 worth of fish employs only 42,000 fishermen—while in Ireland the catching of 2,000,000 worth of fish gives employment to 24,000 fishermen.—W.R.G.
† See question 18398, and footnote p. 22.

18585. But there is nobody fishing herrings?—No, except in April, May, and June.

18586. At the present moment people are fishing herrings twenty and thirty miles off the west coast of Lewis?—Possibly.

18587. Why should not that be done off the west coast of Ireland?—I don't think that they are going twenty or thirty miles away, because my experience of the west coast of Scotland is that at this time of year they are fishing in the lochs.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Mr. Green is right so far that the bulk of the fishing is in the big Minch, but a large proportion of them go twenty and thirty miles outside.

18588. Mr. BRYCE.—If they were to go thirty miles west of Tory or Blackod Bay would they find herrings near, and, if so, why don't they fish them, too?—We know they begin fishing far away out at sea in April, and April is the first month they begin to get any.

18589. But on the west coast of Scotland, and the east coast, the men have entirely left in that month and gone away to Shetland. There is practically no fish off Lewis in April, and the men have gone away to Shetland?—They can catch any amount of herrings off Lewis in April, but they have made a voluntary close time of it. They abstain from fishing in April, but they would get herrings off Stornaway, which is a thing that there has been a great deal of discussion on. They would catch herrings off Stornaway if they fished for them.

18590. Why do the people sail away from the west coast—why do the east fishing boat drifters and big boats all go off to Shetland some time in the spring?—Late in the spring time they go to Shetland because that is the time when the herrings are to be had there. Then, after being in Shetland, they move down to the east coast of Scotland.

18591. You say the movements of the fish are much the same in Ireland. What is the movement of the fish at that time in Ireland?—In April and May the herrings can be caught off the north-west coast far off at sea, and they can be caught off the south coast at the same time, and the boats begin to fish for them. At first the herrings are of poor quality and mixed. As the month of April goes as they become a better class of herring, and in the beginning of May we consider they are fit to fish. In May they catch these very high-class herrings, which fetch the highest price in the world—these ones that are sent to France and Germany.

18592. May only?—May and the beginning of June.

18593. Then the fishing stops?—Then the fishing stops; the fish go right away off, and there is no herring fishing then to be expected on those parts of the coast until October.

18594. During all that time is fishing going on in the North Sea?—In some parts of the North Sea, and it is going on in the Irish Sea.

18595. Where are the fish that were caught off the west coast of Ireland in the months of May and June?—They are, I presume, in the Atlantic.

18596. And you could not catch them?—They scatter by the Atlantic. There is hardly any time when you get a train of herring nets in the sea when you would not catch one or two herrings; but they do not concentrate so as to make a valuable fishery until the month of March. I have caught herrings myself when I have been trying to fish mackerel early in the month of March. I fished a train of mackerel nets in the Atlantic all through the month of March.

18597. To go a little further, if you were to furnish the Donegal men, the Galway men, or the south coast men with drifters, would they do any better than they do at present?—I do not think they would do better with more drifters. They could not pay interest on capital and make a living.

18598. Therefore it is not a question of furnishing additional capital for steam?—It is not, but in the May herring fishing they probably would do a great deal better if they had steam, because in May the fish is lying a long way off, and steam drifters do come there. There were thirty steam drifters fishing in Downings Bay last year.

18599. But the only way in which the steam drifter could be made to pay would be if it followed the fish right round?—It must follow the fish right round. Let me refer to something I said before about the corresponding earnings of the steam trawlers, and our

west coast men. A fisherman in Ireland may land £100 worth of fish, and his share of that as a great deal more than that of the fisherman in England who lands £1,000 worth of fish, because in the latter case the £1,000 goes largely into interest on capital, upkeep, and profits to the Shareholders.

18600. The boat has a larger share?—An enormously larger share.

18601. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In these trawlers the hands are paid by wages?—Yes, chiefly, or in shares which only represent wages.

18602. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You said that in Ireland the fishermen of transit were naturally considered to be very great. Now, did not you yourself organize transit across Ireland to England for fresh mackerel?—Yes, we had to do that.

18603. That is to say, from the most remote fishery on the Irish coast the fish were carried fresh into the English market?—Yes.

18604. That is interesting, because it seems to point in that direction—that whenever a fishery is good, there will be some means found of getting the produce to market?—Yes.

18605. And I think there is another instance of that which occurred under yourself and Mr. Duffin, who was acting with you. Had you not steamers coming from Glasgow to Brestport taking the herrings fresh on board, and bringing them on with a sprinkling of salt to the Glasgow market?—Yes, but that was purely a matter of trade; we had nothing to say in it. If the fishing is good, the means of transit will be found, unless it is a question of railway; but where steamers can come, and where steamers can effectively run the fish to the market, they will come.

18606. Sir FRANK MOWAT.—What is the longest time, when you catch herring in ordinary weather, in which they can be delivered in a salable condition in the market?—Forty-eight hours.

18607. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Transshipping damages the fish very much, does it not?—Transshipping adds to the expense, and, of course, damages the fish. A steam trawler fishing off the west coast of Ireland has some seven or eight tons of ice that she takes on board at Milford; she will catch, perhaps, £500 or £600 worth of fish in two days; she packs it all in ice in her hold, so that it is all a frozen mass; then she runs right away to Milford, she never breaks bulk, and the fish comes out of that almost the same as it is caught, but once it gets in the train the ice begins to melt, and in a very short time, particularly in the warm weather, the fish deteriorates. It is the interest of the steam trawler to deliver her fish in good order, and not to break bulk, but to get as near the market as she possibly can.

18608. Mr. BRYCE.—In your evidence in Dublin the first time you told us that you did not think there were very much possibility of ever developing the fishing on the coast of Connemara in the same way, and to the same extent, as the fishing on the coast of Donegal has been developed. Are you still of that opinion?—I am of that opinion, with one qualification. Under the present conditions of the fishing it is true, but I see no reason why the fisheries of Connemara might not be as good as they were 50 years ago if the herring came back to that coast. But the herring in large quantities have not come back to that coast, and therefore it is no use equipping men with boats which the men themselves have will not pay. The Aran Islanders and some Connemara men try all the winter in which the fish might be looked for. If the fish came back there would be no difficulty whatever in providing the men with boats. If the Aran men had no really good year the difficulty would vanish.

18609. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—After all your investigations of the fishing grounds, do you not still think it desirable to go a little further westward, out into the Atlantic, and see whether there might be fish found there if better and bigger boats went out to look for them?—The whole place is fished by steam trawlers, and they are quite alive to seeing fish, and in fact where herrings do congregate, they do catch them. I think the best way of answering the question as to whether there are any fish that we do not know of, and so on, is to call attention to what I have said out in my Memorandum.* In my last evidence I said that the time of year when we were catching herring now was different from the time of year at which herring were being caught on the Irish coast 50 years ago—that when the Donegal fishings were at their

Feb. 14, 1907.

Mr. W.
Spencer
Green.

Feb. 16, 1897.

Mr. W.
Spencer
Green.

best, it used to be in the winter time, whereas now it was in the autumn. Since I said that, the whole thing has changed, and in last autumn, at the time of the year when the boats were at Burtonport for the fishing, there were no herrings to be got; every effort was made, but there were no herrings to be got, and without any visible cause for it, the herrings all came in in January instead of coming in in October and November, and the men who had been waiting there from the east coast of Ireland and other places all got into debt, and had to leave at Christmas, having put in a desperately bad season. They had to come home without earning anything, and in January the fish came in on the same dates as in 1835. And what applies to herrings applies to mackerel also; the whole autumn mackerel fishing was a failure this year, and the mackerel did not begin to come on the coast until Christmas, so that both herring and mackerel are difficult to catch upon. If the boats did not go out the fish people might say that fish were there in plenty, but they did try night after night and came back without earning anything.

18715. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Unless you have anything you desire to add to the evidence you have given, I do not think we need detain you longer. We will put your two memoranda in the Appendix to the Report, but I think we have elicited from you, and seen, all that we can hope to get.—The only thing I should like to emphasize would be the necessity of building a proper harbour at Downings Bay. I was asked to say whether I considered that the moneys that were spent in days gone by were actually spent, and I think I can say this—that the Commission, which had to deal with a large sum of money, did not spend that money successfully; they said they wanted to build large harbours suitable for large fishing boats, but they did not build one that is suitable.

18716. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In what way would you suggest that the Downings Bay Harbour might be improved—by extension?—It is incapable of improvement—it is in the wrong place.

18717. Where would you put it?—There is a little bay to the westward of Downings pier.

18718. Sir ARTHUR MACDONALD.—You say it is in the wrong place?—Yes.

18719. Was the place in which it now is suggested by the Fisheries Department or by another Department?—It was suggested by the Commission.

18720. By which Commission?—By the Commission which immediately preceded the Commission which dealt with the £240,000; it was a Relief of Distress

Commission which suggested it, and it was built by the Board of Works.

18721. The Board of Works selected the site?—I think they selected the site.

18722. Was there any opposition to the site?—There was the greatest possible opposition to the site. The County Surveyor of Donegal at that time said it was a wrong site, and the consequence was that Mr. Stevenson, a Scotch engineer, was consulted by the Government to decide whether the Board of Works was right, or the people who were opposing the site that they selected, and Mr. Stevenson went round with Mr. Hart, the County Surveyor, and produced a report which settled the question. At all events, the Board of Works were white-washed.

18723. And the result is that now it is generally understood to be in the wrong place?—Oh, yes.

18724. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the advantage of having it on the west side of the Bay?—There is a natural creek outside, about 500 yards from the pier, that can be made into a perfectly safe harbour.

18725. Deeper water?—Deeper water, and the water is still. Where the pier now is it is in the centre of the surf, and when the boats were lost just before Christmas last year they were anchored in the only anchorage they could anchor in, off the pier out in the Bay.

18726. Outside the present pier?—Outside the present pier. Three boats were at the present pier, and by the greatest exertions of the men who were there, they saved the three boats.

18727. They were alongside the pier?—Alongside the pier.

18728. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—The others dragged anchor?—The others all dragged, and were driven in on the rocks.

18729. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Which way did the wind blow?—It began north-westerly, and went north.

18730. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—The men themselves have stood the loss?—Yes; we had an insurance fund which met part of the loss.

18731. Mr. BAYNE.—That remark about building the pier in the wrong place applies almost everywhere, so far as I can make out. At Malin Head they say it is the wrong place. Wherever I go in Ireland they say the pier is in the wrong place.—As I state in my Memorandum C, they had two different ideas; the one was to build deep-water harbours for large fishing boats; the other to build small slips for small fishing boats; and apparently, as they could not decide what was to be done, they struck an average at each place, so that at no place did they make a harbour that was good enough for large boats, and the piers that they did build were unnecessarily expensive for small boats.

The Commission adjourned.

THIRTY-NINTH PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At Winchester House, St. James's Square, London, S.W.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; and ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.

MR. A. T. DOHERTY EXAMINED.

18732. Sir JOHN COLOMER (in the Chair).—You have handed in a Memorandum,* and I suppose the best way would be for you to go through that as it stands, and then the Commissioners can intervene with questions upon any points on which they may desire further information.—My evidence will be confined solely to what I have seen and experienced since I was appointed Superintendent of Fisheries to the Congested Districts Board in Ireland. I joined the Board's service in October, 1893, at which time the Board had just opened a curing station for herrings at Inchisheen. During the previous spring and summer months this station had been opened for curing cod and ling. Then, in the same year, the firm of J. & R. Watson, of Derry, started a herring-curing station at Burtonport. That was the beginning of herring-curing on the coast of Donegal so far as it came under my notice. Previous to that nothing had ever been done in the way of curing herrings. In fact, the fishing of herrings had practically made a commencement only that year, in a small way. Then a few weeks later the Board also opened a curing station at Inchisheen, off Gweedagh, for herrings, and another one at Downing's Bay, and in the previous summer months, at Downing's Bay, the Board cured some cod and ling as well. Also during the spring and summer months previous to October, 1893, the Board had curing stations for cod and ling at Teelin and Malinbeg—that is below Killybegs, at the entrance to Donegal Bay—and considerable quantities of cod and ling, as well as some glassos, were cured there. I forget how many tons—perhaps sixty tons of dried fish would be the result of the curing that year at Teelin and Malinbeg. About thirty years previous to this, there had been cod and ling cured at Teelin, but the curing was carried on by a Belfast gentleman who did not give it up on account of the business being unprofitable, so far as I could learn, but solely on account of the going off of the fish at that time; for a number of years there had not been any fish caught near to the shores of Teelin, and it was not worth the party's while to keep the station open.

18733. Do you mean that the business was broken off owing to the scarcity of fish?—So far as my information goes that was so, but I cannot give you any facts other than that the men about Teelin used to tell me that for a number of years the cod and ling did not seem to come into the Bay, but they returned again very plentifully in the early nineties and the late eighties of last century. However, I could find no trace of herrings ever having been cured in Donegal before the Board began its work of curing herrings, and, except at Downing's, where herrings were fished at times in small quantities to supply local trade, no herrings seem to have been fished for many years—probably fifty to sixty years—on the Donegal coast, from Teelin to Lough Swilly. The men did not seem to fish there, and they spent a good part of each year working in Scotland, and then came home for the other part of the year. Then during the next few seasons the Board opened curing stations for herrings at Magheragallon and other places. That was in order to remove the station from Inchisheen Island to the mainland, where they

had built a pier. It was more convenient in every way, both for the boats from Magheragallon and for the boats from the island, to land the fish at this pier, and it was more convenient for the Board to get the herrings shipped from it. Feb. 15, 1907.
Mr. A. T.
Doherty.

18734. The pier was built by the Board?—The pier was built by the Board, and a most useful pier it has been. It was the means of opening up the herring fishing there, it was convenient for all the islands round about, and it was built, I may also mention, at a very small cost.

18735. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I suppose a steamer cannot get up to that pier?—No; it was not built for steamers to come in. The total cost of the pier, I think I am right in saying, was somewhere about £240, so that you will understand it was not built for a deep-water pier. It was for fishing purposes solely, and it has certainly served those purposes in every way in a most satisfactory manner. The Board also opened a station at Grizzane, a little to the north of Burtonport, and also one at Rosleg, further south on the Donegal coast. These were all for herrings. At the same time, or a little later, they opened stations for curing cod, ling, mackerel and herring at a great many places of which I have all the names here, but which perhaps I need not trouble you with.

18736. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—A good many stations for curing cod and ling had been started before you joined the Board?—Yes.

18737. The curing of cod and ling continued to prosper for several years after you joined the Board?—Oh, yes, it was very prosperous.

18738. Then there was also craig cod fishing, was there not?—Yes, that came along with the cod and ling fishing.

18739. You have explained that in 1893 herrings had already been cured at Burtonport?—Yes.

18740. Not in large quantities?—Not in large quantities.

18741. Who began the curing of herrings at Burtonport?—The Board began the curing of herrings at Burtonport. In 1894 the Board cured about 20,000 herrings, and I suppose that was the first experiment that was made on the coast.

18742. However, other people came afterwards to help the Board in its work?—After a few years—after a matter of three or four years others came in. The first one to come in after the Board was the late James Sweeney, of Dungle, who started curing, I think, in 1896. Then he was soon followed up by others. The present Donegal Fishing Company started after him, and other owners came as well; but for the first few years the Board, and Watsons, of Derry, bought and cured the whole of the herrings that were landed at Burtonport.

18743. When the Commission was at Burtonport, the Commission was informed that the late Father Bernard Walker had contributed largely to successfully beginning this industry of fishing round Burtonport?—And so he did, and took a most active interest in it; everything he possibly could do to assist the

Feb. 15, 1907.
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Mr. A. T.
Duffie.

Board in developing the industry he did. I had a great deal to do with the matter myself, and knew personally the interest he took in it; but he attributed the work to the Board all the same.

18744. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Will you now proceed with your Memorandum?—The Board opened curing stations, as I say, at Inchmurray Island, Tory Island, Mullin Head.—

18745. We have got a record of three places in your memorandum, and we can refer to that if we wish to ask you questions, so you need not trouble to repeat them all.—Very well. In its early days the Board, in its efforts to develop fisheries, not only made loans to fishermen for boats, nets, and fishing gear, but bought and marketed nearly all the fish caught, as there were no other buyers there, and for some years the Board had to be the fish merchants.

18746. You mean in that particular district, because you have already told us that J. and R. Watson opened a curing station?—At Barriport.—Yes.

18747. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—To give the industry a good start the Board had to do commercial work during the first years?—During the first three or four years they had to do that.

18748. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you know whether their operations resulted in loss or profits?—On the whole there was a profit. On some years, and on some fishings, there was a loss, but I think the result of the Board's curing at the end of 1897—which was about the last year there was any curing to any extent—was that in all these years there was a profit of over £300.

18749. Evidently the Board showed others that there was a profit to be made, and then others followed in their steps?—The Board wanted to make it a sound commercial business.

18750. And the others quickly followed when they saw that that was so?—Yes. The Board's object from the first was, if possible, to make the business such as would encourage other merchants to take it up, and having that end in view, they were careful not to give too high prices for the fish, or to pay too high wages to the workers, so that outsiders could see that the business was sound, and so that they would be inclined to take it up. And of course, when they did take it up they gave higher prices both for the fish and to the workers than the Board were paying.

18751. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That made it easy for the Board to slip out?—Then the Board slipped out. The Board certainly did not wish to be merchants longer than they were forced to; but in order to set the industry going the Board had to be the merchants for a time. There was no one else who would do it.

18752. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I see you joined the Board in the same month of the same year as J. and R. Watson, of Derry, opened the curing station at Barriport. Was the curing of J. and R. Watson from Derry at all due to the initiative taken by the Board?—I have no doubt it was.

18753. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Secretary of the Board was in communication with that firm?—Yes, and they worked very harmoniously together.—J. and R. Watson and the Board.

18754. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The initial policy of the Board was to take such steps as would induce others to come into the trade by showing that there was a field for the profitable employment of capital in fishing on the west coast of Ireland; is that so?—That is so.

18755. And that policy has practically been successful?—Well, it has tended to be successful. You will find in the Board's Annual Reports that they frequently allude to the fact that they look forward to the time coming when they will be able to leave the buying and curing of fish to be taken up by merchants.

18756. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then they are buying and curing at the present moment?—No; they have not bought or cured anything for years.

18757. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You allude to the earlier reports?—I allude to the earlier years of the Board's work—say, from 1865 to 1868. These were the years that the Board had the practical work really to do. Then the men were not very well up in fishing, and they had to be encouraged to it in every reasonable way, and if the Board had not stood by them in those years, I do not think the fishing would have developed as it has done. Of course, I simply give my opinion upon that.

18758. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—When you say that there was a profit of, I think you said, £200 on the transaction, was that limited to a certain branch of the work?—That was just simply on the Board's work in curing. If you turn up the 1896 Report you will find a profit and loss account for the year on every fishing. That is to say, you find a profit and loss account on the herring curing, the mackerel curing, and the cod and ling curing. These accounts were carefully compiled; every item was charged that should be charged by any fish merchant.

18759. Your operations were confined entirely to congested districts?—Entirely.

18760. And over what range of coast would they extend?—From the North of Donegal to Galway Bay.

18761. In these places did you erect any buildings?—Oh, yes; at most of them the Board erected some suitable buildings for the curing—no expensive buildings, but of a suitable kind all the same—for instance, stores in which cod and ling could be split and sorted, and in which mackerel could also be split.

18762. And was the cost of these buildings put against the profit in arriving at that figure of £200?—No, not against the profit, but depreciation was charged against the buildings and plant, and that was set against the profit in making up the profit and loss account.

18763. Then, supposing you ceased to cure, as was practically done, what would become of these buildings—could you sell or let them?—All the buildings used for curing are now let to other curers. The Board have a list of curing stations that they let every year, and although they have retired from the curing, yet they always keep a hand over it, and so far as these stations are let, they are let to curers who they find deal fairly by the fishermen.

18764. Have you found out the mistake I made?—I think it was in Dublin—that I said there was a loss of £13,000 shown by a table. What was the cause of that?—I expect the cause of that would be that the Board built curing stations, and, perhaps, boat slips, and so on; all that might be charged to curing, and it would not be fair to do that. These were built outside curing, and without them the curing could not have been done.

18765. But of course the question remains as to what would become of that property when you ceased. Unless you disposed of them to advantage, naturally it would be a dead loss?—The whole of the stations have been let since to other merchants.

18766. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—And Mr. Sutherland asks what would ultimately be done with these stations if the Board did not care to retain them as its own property and let them from year to year?—The stations could be disposed of, I have no doubt, but I think it is better and wiser on the part of the Board to hold them as it is done. You cannot look upon the trade in curing and fishing in Ireland on the same lines as you can look upon it in Scotland. You must remember that we are not so far ahead in Ireland as you are in Scotland with curing and fishing.

18767. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I quite understand that you must make a sacrifice?—The Board have to keep an eye upon the work yet; and it has not reached that stage when they can stand aside, and say to other merchants—"We have nothing more to do, and we leave it with you."

18768. But is there a prospect in your opinion, of these premises which you have erected being yet occupied by other people who will carry on the trade, so that there will be no loss upon the capital outlay?—Every prospect, but, as I say, they are all occupied.

18769. All?—Practically all; they are opened by others as tenants.

18770. And they let at a profit to the Board?—The Board got a few pounds of rent for each. I could not give you the exact figures just now, but it is not a case so much of getting a profitable rent out of them as of doing good in the way of developing fishing and encouraging others to take up the buying and selling of the fish.

18771. My questions were entirely directed to the £200 profit which you said you made. It is all a matter of accounting, of course?—Yes.

18772. I quite admit that it is quite justifiable to make a sacrifice if you leave a profit behind you afterwards?—I mentioned the profit and loss accounts as proof of the care the Board bestowed upon this buying and selling of fish, and of the anxiety that they

showed in wishing to make it a sound commercial transaction, so that other buyers or other merchants should take it up. The fact that in Donegal alone there are from 50 to 60 merchants now engaged in curing herrings shows the soundness of the Board's policy.

18773. Donegal, of course, is the largest centre of the industry by a long way.—There is the Galway coast and the Mayo coast, where curing of mackerel is carried on. The Board had to start the curing there as well.

18774. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And have you not gone to Kerry?—Yes, but the Kerry people carry on the curing themselves. We have gone to Kerry, and we have given them the greatest assistance in starting the herring-curing industry. What Mr. Sutherland mentioned as to the development of herring curing and herring fishing in Donegal has been done exactly upon the same lines as the Board started.

18775. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I want to get this perfectly clear. The Board, having been charged with the development and promotion of Irish fisheries, found that in the West of Ireland, that any organised effort for catching or curing fish, and the means of carrying on operations were non-existent.—There was no curing, and practically no fishing.

18776. Then the next thing the Board had to do was to prepare for operations to develop the catching and curing of fish?—Yes.

18777. The first necessity was the provision of buildings where curing could be carried on at certain places?—That is so.

18778. That involved certain expenditure?—That is so.

18779. And that was a capital expenditure?—That is so.

18780. And the policy of the Board being ultimately to hand over the industry to private enterprise, and only to do what was necessary to give it a start, and to induce private enterprise to take up the matter, they, having erected these buildings, had them on their hands. Is not that so?—That is so.

18781. That being a capital outlay, did they charge depreciation on the cost of the buildings?—When the Board carried on curing themselves they charged depreciation on the cost of everything, both buildings and plant, but the buildings were not expensive in most cases; they were put up as cheaply as possible, though at the same time we made sure that they were suitable for the work to be done.

18782. Up to the time of the Board ceasing to engage in the operations themselves, they had charged depreciation on these buildings?—Yes.

18783. When they ceased to carry on the operations at these places where buildings had been erected, and left it to private enterprise to continue the operations, then they put a rent for the buildings?—That is so.

18784. Can you tell me if that rent on the whole of these buildings at all represents the depreciation charged by the Board on the capital outlay?—That would be scarcely the depreciation, but not far off.

18785. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The reason why the Board lets these buildings still in preference to selling them is that they consider it a matter of gratitude for the Board to have a good hold along the coast in view of future possibilities?—That is the main reason why the Board retains the stations in its own hands.

18786. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—With your experience of Scotch fisheries, as they now exist, and of Irish fisheries in the initial stage of progress, do you agree that it is sound and good policy for the Board not to part with these buildings, but to keep a certain amount of control over them?—Certainly. There are some places where the Board started fishings where herring-curing is carried on by so many merchants that it practically makes no difference whether the Board retain a hold or not, but in other places again—a great many of them, the most outlying and neglected places—it would be a mistaken policy on the Board's part to give up their control over the curing stations yet.

18787. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Before we go away from the question of herring-curing, am I right in assuming that practically as yet the greater part of your herring fishing is in County Donegal, of which Downing's Bay is the centre?—Downing's Bay is the centre; there are large quantities at Bursport also, although this year the herring fishery did not succeed very well there.

18788. And is the quality of the Bursport herring equal to that of the Downing's Bay herring?—To look at them you would not think there was any difference; they are as large and as good-looking, but they never have attained the position in the market that the Downing's Bay herrings have done. This may be owing to the fact that the Downing's Bay cure got a name in the days before the Bursport herring was known in the American market. But to look at the herrings from the two places, you would not see much difference. I should say they were both specially good herrings, although the Downing's Bay may be the best.

18789. And they have an advantage in the market I suppose?—They have the advantage of being best known in the market.

18790. Have you any reason to suppose that the herring fishing further south on the west coast might be developed as much as at Donegal?—I have every reason to suppose that it might be developed further south. For instance, last month at Kermagh Bay they had a very good herring fishing, at a place called Kilmaclogh, about fourteen miles below Keshmone, and it was late in the season, but the fishermen did very well for about a fortnight. I have not heard for about a fortnight now, but they did very well then, and were exceedingly well pleased with the result of the fishing.

18791. Can you tell me anything about the quality of the herring there—how does it compare with the Downing's Bay herring?—They are not so big as the Downing's Bay herrings, but I should mention that some two years ago there were some herrings caught there, and the men applied to the Board, and asked to be supplied with herring nets. The Board gave them the herring nets, and along with those they sent a supply of barrels and of salt to the place so as to be ready when the fish came, but no herrings were caught last year. But then this year the herrings came, and then fortunately, the Board having sent the barrels and salt, they were in readiness for them, and a cutter from Galway at once took the business up, and offered to come and cure the herrings, and give satisfactory prices for them, which he did.

18792. How long did that last?—About the middle of last month the fishing was going on; as I say, I have not heard for about a fortnight now, but it looked about a fortnight up to the time I did hear. But you understand that the fishing is worked entirely with small boats.

18793. It is the same fishing that Mr. Green was describing yesterday—what he called the in-shore fishing?—Yes.

18794. The point I was going to put to you was this—whether if there were larger boats they might not probably follow the fish further out to sea?—In the earlier part of the season I have no doubt that if they had larger boats they might get the herrings further out to sea, but no matter what sort of boats they had when the herrings came into the bight they could fish better with small boats than with large.

18795. But the point is that continuity of fishing is of great importance, and at present they have got the means of following the fish. Have you any reason to suppose that the off-shore fishing is better than the in-shore?—In the summer the off-shore fishing for herrings and for mackerel is the fishing, but in the autumn it is a singular thing that along the west coast of Ireland—and I have given particular attention to it myself—we never get herrings or mackerel for any distance out to sea; we never get herrings or mackerel until they come to the shore. That is certainly the case at Downing's Bay on the grounds which the Board fish, and so far as has been found out yet, it is just a case of having to wait until the fish come into the shore. I am speaking of the autumn fishing; it is different in the summer when we get herrings over fifty or sixty miles out to sea.

18796. Is it your opinion that the fish in the Atlantic are better than the fish in the waters of England, Scotland, and Ireland?—It is a matter of opinion; the herrings of the north of Donegal are the finest I have ever seen, in England, Scotland, or anywhere else.

18797. But is it not the case that herring caught in the Atlantic are better than the herring caught on the coasts of England, Ireland, and Scotland?—They are larger in the North of Ireland, but then again, in the South of Ireland they are much smaller, I do not say than those of England and Scotland, but much

Feb. 15, 1907.

Mr. A. T. Duffin.

Feb 15, 1902.

Mr. A. T.
Duffin.

smaller than those of the North of Ireland. The herrings caught in Keshmarr Bay last month were not nearly so large as the herrings caught off Donegal.

18798. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Will you go on with the second paragraph in your memorandum, which gives the progress of the herring fishery in County Donegal?—Since it was started in 1853 herring fishing in Donegal has made steady and satisfactory progress. I have already referred to Mr. Watson, of Derry, having a curing station at Burtport, and with the exception of those cured at this station the Board bought and cured the whole of the herrings caught on the Donegal coast, from Teelin to Downing's. That means the whole of the herrings that were caught at Teelin, Rosbeg, Gortasson, Magheragallion, and Downing's Bay. For the first few years they were all bought and cured by the Board except what was bought by Messrs. Watson, of Derry. They taught and trained boys and girls to gut, pack, and cure herrings; and this was not done in a slovenly way, for the Board were careful to do it in the most approved plans of curing, the same as is done in Scotland, so that the herrings were done up to suit the various markets.

18799. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The members of the Board had the advantage of seeing the curing process at Downing's Bay?—Yes, and the herrings were cured to suit the Irish, the Continental, and the American markets; but in its early days the Board sold the bulk of its cured herrings in Ireland, and they were not sold at the same price as in those days; we were very pleased to get a matter of 25s. a barrel for the herrings, selling then in Galway, Limerick, Westport, or anywhere along the West of Ireland. The Board did not do much in developing markets in other countries; that has been done more since private merchants took the work up. After two or three seasons, fish merchants local and from Scotland and England, came to Donegal and bought and cured herrings. Steamers also came from Glasgow to Burtport, and also to Downing's Bay. They bought considerable quantities of herrings, and carried them fresh to Glasgow, so that the Board were soon reduced of the curing stations, and were free to devote their attention to the development of the fishings. I mentioned before that there were over sixty herring centres and merchants buying, curing, and marketing herrings on the Donegal coast. There is always a brisk demand for the herrings, and high prices are paid—as high as anywhere—to the fishermen on the Donegal coast, especially at Downing's Bay; the superior quality of the herrings has led up to this, and is the chief reason for the prices being so high. Most of the trade in herrings is carried on upon the same lines as the Board began it, namely, by curing, although large quantities are sent fresh from Burtport, both by rail and by direct steamer to Glasgow, and there is also an establishment at Edinvalley, near Burtport, for kippering herrings for the English market; but most of the herrings landed on the Donegal coast are cured.

18800. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Is that because the cured herring is more profitable to those engaged in the industry?—That is so; it is more profitable to the merchants than any other way they can make a market for them.

18801. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But if there is access to the market, is it not better to send the fish fresh into it?—Well, it would not be better for the most of these herrings, for the reason that the markets to which they are sent cured pay higher prices for them than would be paid for them fresh in any of the home markets.

18802. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is easy, is it not, to get the home market with fresh herrings?—Yes, that is so, but even when prices are high it takes a very high price in the home market to compete with the prices paid for these cured herrings, by America, for instance, and by Germany and Russia.

18803. One of the disadvantages of having herrings fresh is that they are caught all round the coast at the same time, and when they are all rushed in fresh the market is glutted?—Yes, but I suppose the principal reason is this—that these herrings have obtained such a high price in the various markets that merchants find they cannot get the same result for them in any other way than by curing. You may depend upon it that if they could they would do it, but it is

a very difficult matter to get 25 a cran out of herrings in any market, and they must be very fine herrings, and cured very fine, before they will bring that money.

18804. Of course Downing's Bay herrings will not bring 25 regularly—that is not the average?—No, but 25 was paid for the Downing's Bay herrings last summer.

18805. What is the average price?—About 23.

18806. How does that compare with Castle Bay?—Oh, it is very much better than the price of Castle Bay. Castle Bay herrings certainly fetch high prices too, but the Castle Bay herrings cannot compete with the Downing's Bay. Last year some of the Castle Bay cures put Downing's Bay marks on their barrels.

18807. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It seems to denote rather a good prospect for the Irish fishing industry that the demand for cured fish should be almost as profitable as the demand for fresh fish?—Yes, it does.

18808. Owing to the geographical position of Ireland?—Ireland does not depend for a market for its herrings, at any rate, upon the home markets, and owing to the high quality of its herrings it does not suffer from not having the geographical advantages in reaching the home markets that some other places have.

18809. When it is a question of cured fish, quick access to the markets is not of such importance?—Not of such importance as in the case of fresh fish.

18810. At the same time, do not very large quantities of fresh herrings go over the line from Burtport to Derry, and from Glenties to Derry?—Certainly.

18811. On the way to the English market?—Yes, that is so, but then I say also that large quantities have always been sent fresh from Burtport to Glasgow, although the bulk of the herrings from there are also cured, whereas in Downing's Bay I do not think there was a single herring sent fresh last year, either at the summer or at the autumn fishing.

18812. Downing's Bay, for a fresh fish trade, has this disadvantage, has it not—that it is far away from any railway station?—Yes, it is eight miles from the railway station; yet that is not so much a disadvantage, having regard to the fact of the certainty that the Downing's Bay herrings can always command a sure price cured.

18813. True, but if that large harbour, or considerable harbour, which Mr. Green spoke of yesterday were constructed, would it not be a great advantage if the railway were extended to the harbour?—Certainly.

18814. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Would it be an advantage to the cured fish trade?—Yes, it would be an advantage to the cured fish trade in so far as it could have a service every day from there to Londonderry, and from Londonderry to Glasgow you have a daily steamer service, and you could send away your fish every day by rail from Downing's Bay the same as they do from Burtport.

18815. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In preference of Sir John's question, is it not the fact that besides herrings, which, of course, are intermittent at Downing's, there is almost a constant supply of fat-fish and haddock caught at Downing's, which might be sent with advantage over a railway to a consuming centre?—That is so.

18816. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Sir John, Coleman has partly asked my question—what means do you have at present of taking away the cured herrings from Downing's Bay?—They are all shipped direct to Glasgow, and from there they are sent over to America, or to Germany, or to Russia—whichever market the merchant wishes them sent to.

18817. This is a little away from that point—why was not the railway brought up to Downing's Bay when they were making that railway?—I could not tell you. It was a great matter to get it so near to Downing's Bay as it is—that is, to Greenough.

18818. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And you really say that the cured trade is more profitable than the fresh?—Yes; the cured fish in Downing's Bay—the herrings.

18819. Only in Downing's Bay?—I did not mean to make the statement in a general way; I simply alluded to Downing's Bay, and said that at Downing's Bay, in last summer's and last autumn's fishings; I do not think any herrings were sent fresh—they were all cured; and I mentioned the fact that the highest prices

that I knew of that were made anywhere were made there; but this was entirely owing to the high class of the herrings and their suitability for curing, and for the markets that they were sent to. The summer herrings are all sent to Germany and Russia, and the autumn herrings are invariably sent to New York, where they are bought almost entirely by Jews. The Jews handle the whole of them.

18820. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are you aware that much local interest has been manifested in the continuance of the new railway line from Strabane through Letterkenney to Millford, and from Millford to Down's Bay?—I am aware of that.

18821. Lord Leitrim and many others at that locality are endeavouring to have the line constructed?—I am aware of that.

18822. You think it very desirable, I suppose?—I do.

18823. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—With reference to Mr. Strathfield's question about why the railway was not brought to Down's Bay, was it in your mind when you answered it that Down's Bay was only discovered to be so valuable a fishing centre after the Light Railways Act, and after the programme of the light railways had been settled?—I have no doubt the progress of this light railway was settled before Down's Bay came to be of so much importance. Down's Bay was practically unknown of before that.

18824. And it was unknown of where the Light Railways Bill was being promoted, and when the programme of the light railways for Ireland was settled upon?—Yes.

18825. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Perhaps you would modify your reply to the question. Do you not think that Down's Bay had become an important fishing centre before that extension of line towards Burtport, which goes through Crosslough and comes nearest to Down's Bay, was actually decided upon?—Well, certainly; before it was made it had become an important fishing centre; although it was made, so far as I recollect, or was being made, before the summer herring fishing was opened.

18826. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Now will you proceed with your Memorandum?—For the autumn herring catch of 1895 I should say not more, and perhaps less, than £1,000 would have been the total earnings made by fishermen, while not over £200 would have been made by workers at curing, and so on, and for work about the curing stations. So that in 1895 I should say that the total net earnings for that part of the Donegal coast would have been under £1,500; whereas for the autumn fishing of 1905 the fishermen made over £40,000 for herrings (I am alluding entirely to the autumn fishing there, you see); while the workers at curing stations, including curers and others, would have earned about £10,000; so that in the autumn herring fishing of 1905 there would have been made, at that part of the Donegal coast, something like £50,000. Now, previous to the Board's work there was nothing like that; and I again point to the fact that most of these earnings were made entirely on the same lines as those on which the Board began its work. Most of the herrings were cured, and the people were employed on the same system as that on which the Board carried on the work.

18827. I suppose you could not yet give us the autumn fishing returns as to earnings for 1905? How soon could a Memorandum be given to the Commission simply giving the figures for 1905, so as to enable us to compare them with the figures, which you have already given us?—In the course of a few days I could give them.

18828. It is to bring us up to date—if you could simply give us those broad figures for the autumn fishing of 1905 that you have given for 1903?—Perhaps this afternoon I may be able to do that.

18829. Just bend in the broad figures of what was earned in 1905 by the fishermen and by the curers, so that we may compare them with the figures for 1903 and 1905?—It will be somewhat difficult to get what the curers have made, as they do not like to give away the prices they give for the herrings. One could only form an estimate.*

18830. Quite so, but you have formed an estimate for 1905, and all I wanted was the broad figures to be handed in as to 1905?—For 1905, owing to the short fishing at Burtport, the figures would be less than they were in 1905. I think they would be somewhat over £400 at Down's Bay; the fishing was better there, but it was not quite so good at Burtport.

18831. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There was an abundance of fish, but when the fish came the weather was unpropitious?—The unpropitious weather had a great deal to do with the shortness of the fishing.

18832. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—At your convenience, just bend in these figures; and now, please, go on with your Memorandum?—When the herring fishing comes on, it employs very many people—men, boys, girls, curers—everyone who is chosen to work can find employment at the curing stations. Now, the girls are getting to be very expert at the work, and good workers among the girls can earn up to £3 a week, when the fishing is good, at curing the herrings. Curers usually pay from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per barrel for curing.

18833. It is 3d. in your memorandum?—That is a mistake. It should be 1s. 3d.

18834. Upon that point, how do these wages compare with those in England and Scotland for similar work?—They are similar. The wages are not any less than what was paid in England and Scotland, I should say.

18835. Mr. SOUTHERLAND.—The rate is the same?—Just the same.

18836. Mr. KATANAUGH.—How many months in the year?—It would be in May and June, and again from September to Christmas. Not always, you know, for there are many weeks that they do not earn any of it—when there are no herrings at all. But I simply give these figures to show what is made during a week of good fishing.

18837. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—With reference to employment of boys and girls in this industry, can you tell me if the workers from season to season men to men do about the same people or are they constantly changing?—Well, they are mostly the same people, unless any girls get married; and, of course, when they get married they give up the curing of herrings. But, as a rule, it is the same workers, and they give every attention to the work. The object is to get as perfect at it as they possibly can, and the more they work the more they can do. The more practice they have the more expert they get at the work.

18838. My reason for asking you is in reference to emigration, because I found in schools where there is lace-making in Donegal, that one of the difficulties in those schools is the emigration of girls to America as soon as they know the business; and that is a very marked feature; and I want to know whether in the herring industry you have come to the same conclusion—that is, whether there is a continual changing of the girls due to emigration or whether the industry tends to keep them at home?—Well, that is a question I have not gone very clearly into, but I know that in Down's Bay district and also in Burtport and Kinsaleagh districts, where the most of the work at curing herrings is carried on, it is invariably the same workers whose faces I see about the various curing stations, and when they disappear it is usual for me to hear that they have got married. Now a lot of those workers from Burtport and Kinsaleagh go every season to Down's Bay.

18839. They must be experts?—They would not be employed by these men if they were not expert workers. A lot of the Scotch curers who come to Down's Bay are generally very expert in curing, and must have their work properly done, and if they did not find that these girls can do it well, you may be sure they would not employ them; and I find that the whole of them, or most of them, are very anxious always to get girls from The Kinsale, which shows that they must be satisfied with them as skilled workers.

18840. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have not noticed any emigration as resulting, but you have noticed that in the pursuit of the industry itself there is some migration?—I should say so.

18841. You have remarked that girls who have acquired a knowledge of this industry do not, therefore, emigrate?—No; unless any of them might have friends in America that they might go to; but I do not think that in those places that I have mentioned there is a desire to emigrate for the sake of emigration rather than earning good wages and staying at home.

18842. You have mentioned some of those girls leaving other places and going to Down's Bay to do their business there?—Yes.

18843. Are you also aware that some of them go to Killybegs?—Yes.

18844. And have you heard of any of them going to

Feb. 16, 1907.

Mr. A. T. Duffin.

* To round figures the fishermen earned about £30,000 and the people employed in curing £5,000. Although the catch last year was much less than that of 1905, the prices were better, and thus the earnings of the fishermen did not suffer in proportion, but owing to the smaller number of barrels filled there was not so much money made by curers as in the previous year. A. T. D.

Feb. 15, 1907.

Mr. A. T.
Duffin.

Scotland?—Yes; not only to Scotland, but I know that some of them go on to the Shetland Isles.

18845. Employed by the same merchants who employed them at Burtoggers and Downing?—Yes.

18846. Mr. STURTELL.—They made their acquaintance in Ireland, and then they follow them to Scotland and the Shetland Isles. In fact, there is a field for them there, because there is a tendency on the part of the Scotch girls not to go to the business of curing?—I know that for the last two or three years there have been a good many of the girls from the Rosses, and I think some from Downing's as well that have gone as far as the Shetland Isles.

18847. And they have done very well, I am sure?—They have done very well—yes.

18848. And they were employed for the season?—Yes, and before going they had the summer fishing at home, so that they were employed practically eight months of the year.

18849. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Bearing on the question of emigration which was raised by Sir John have you heard at all of men who have emigrated coming back to Ireland because of the development of the fisheries there?—I have heard of men coming back to Ireland because they heard of the development of the fishery, and I have also heard of men who were in some of the boats as members of the crew who had gone to America when they had money in their pockets, and after a year or two in America coming back, and very anxious to get back to the boats again, and it shows that the fishery is getting an influence over them.

18850. It shows apparently that if it stands or improves it will tend to keep the population at home?—Yes; that as it goes on improving round the coast it will probably be the best and simplest means of keeping the population of the coast at home.

18851. Mr. STURTELL.—Have you yet had any information from cures in Scotland about getting girls from Ireland?—Oh, they communicate themselves.

18852. But you think they have begun to do it?—I know that every year there are a good many now that go to the Shetland Isles for the fishing there.

18853. And I dare say there will be some going this year again?—Oh, undoubtedly there will—all they can get, you may be sure.

18854. Oh, yes, because there is a great scarcity in Scotland, and I think on the whole from that point of view it is as hopeful an industry as you have in connection with the fishing?—Well, it gives employment to a number of people, but, of course, all depends on the fishing.

18855. You are aware of the great demand that there is in Scotland and in England, too, for that matter?—As you say, there is a great demand for labour of that sort, and any boy or girl any way expert at it is sure of getting good employment either in Scotland or England or in the Shetland Isles during the herring fishing.

18856. Would it be too sanguine to think on the whole that the trade might yet pass into the hands of Irish girls?—It is just a matter for themselves if they choose to go.

18857. It is, perhaps, the most real form of technical education that you know. It is really technical. It is not a matter of schools or schemes. It is real technical education which perhaps some of the promoters of technical education might take to heart?—Yes.

18858. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Are you aware that the East Coast of England, such as Yarmouth, relies for its cures on Scotland, for I am aware that it is the Scotch girls who come there as cures?—Most of the Scotch girls are good cures.

18859. And now we understand that the Irish girls go to Scotland?—Yes, that is so; but I should mention, Sir John, that during the time that the herring fishing is going on at Yarmouth the autumn herring fishing is going on in Ireland in Donegal, and the girls will be at home, but during the time of the Scotch fishing there is no fishing going on at home, and they fill in the time between the summer fishing and the autumn fishing.

18860. Those girls that migrate are really following the fish?—Yes.

18861. So that we come to this position that although Irish fishing folk as a rule do not follow the fish, that is that the men do not follow the fish—the women do?—Well, the women are beginning to go to

Scotland and to the Shetlands, but it is hardly fair to say that the Irish fishermen do not follow the fish. They follow the fish well at home, and they have not had a great experience yet.

18862. I am not blaming them at all. Now, then, proceed?—Well, so early as May, 1886, the Board bought and cured some summer-caught fish at Teelin, ten miles west of Killybegs. These are the first of the summer herrings caught in Donegal. The herrings were cured and sent to Germany, where they sold for prices equal to the prices paid for Cabbage herring. Up to 1891 small lots of summer herrings were occasionally got at Teelin and Tory Island, but in 1901 a decided attempt to develop the summer fishing was made in Downing's. Several fish cures arranged with some Scotch boats by paying them so much subsidy per week and 20s. per cure to go and fish from Downing's, and to give the fishing a trial during May. Towards this experiment the Board gave a subsidy of £4 each per week to, I think, six boats. They did this, as they were anxious to see whether a branch of the herring fishing could be opened up in which they could employ their own boats. The experiment turned out successful, and the result has been that summer fishing has gone on increasing ever since. The whole of the Board's large-stemmed boats engage in it. During last May and June about 50 of them fished from Downing's Bay, and there was about a dozen that fished from Teelin.

18863. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—At the same time, Mr. Duffin, is not it the fact that the great bulk of the boats engaged in that May fishing or summer fishing are not Irish boats?—That is so. The bulk or probably two-thirds, but I should say that the Board's fleet was at least a third of the whole fleet at Downing's last year. The rest were Scotch boats, and of these probably a third were steam drifters, and the others were sailing boats, but of a larger size than the Board's fleet.

18864. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—To what cause do you attribute the fact suggested by your answer to the Bishop. The Bishop asked you was it not the fact that by far the larger proportion of these boats were not Irish boats, and you say that is so. Well, I want to know to what cause you attribute that fact?—Just to the cause that they expect to make good earnings by the fishing, and that they fish where it suits them to go to, and in coming to Downing's they would be induced to come to it by the fact that they get good herrings, and get big prices for them, and that there is a chance to make good earnings.

18865. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is the reason why fishermen come from other countries. Is not there a different reason why Irishmen have not their proportion of boats engaged in these fisheries. Does not it take a bigger boat to fish this summer fishing than it does to fish the autumn fishing?—Well, the summer fishing is carried on further out to sea, and certainly it requires a bigger boat to come here, and sail a long distance than it does to work the fisheries in the bays and nearer shore.

18866. Have you noticed that the proportion of large boats on the Irish coast is a very small one?—There is certainly not a very large proportion of big boats, and in fact there were no big boats till the Board built that class of boats, on the West Coast of Ireland; but it is only right to say that the Board's boats at Downing's Bay have invariably fished as well if not better, than the large Scotch sailing boats have done. I do not say that they have fished equal to the steam drifters, but they certainly have fished equal to the large sailing boats, if not better.

18867. Mr. STURTELL.—Are not you building a larger class of boats now with a view to this May fishing of herrings?—We are building a larger class of boats with a view to the May fishing of herrings, and also with the view of their not being too large to engage in the autumn fishing of herrings, trying to hit the size suitable for both fishings.

18868. You seem to indicate by that answer and by a previous one that as far as sailing vessels are concerned there is a size limit, a limit to the size that the boat should attain?—Well, I would not even say that. It is more with a view to the fishing in which the boats would be engaged. The whole tendency of the trade is that the fishing is to be done by means, and I have no doubt that that will eventually come to the Irish boats as well. The whole tendency is

that way, but it would be better that the men should have more practical training—and thus they have in sailing boats—before going into more extensive operations.

18669. It is rather risky to go in for any sort of a steam boat at present, is it, large or small?—Yes, but we have not reached that stage yet. I have no doubt that we will come to it. We must have the sailing boat for the present.

18670. In the meantime you are aware of how cheaply you can get good sailing boats in Scotland?—That is so. At the same time those sailing boats in Scotland are too big for our purposes. Although they would do very well for summer fishing, they would not do for autumn fishing, and the men cannot afford to have two boats, and the object in the meantime is in order to keep down the expenditure has been to try to hit upon a size of a boat suitable for both summer and autumn fishing.

18671. But in the meantime it is a rather difficult situation, is it not?—I can see that it is difficult, but it is a situation that will get more difficult perhaps as time goes on. I can see the difficulty, but at the same time it will just have to be faced.

18672. The difficulty that occurs to me, Mr. Duthie, is this—you are naturally anxious that all the fish should be landed by Irish boats. Well, if that is to be the case they must enter into competition with the sailing vessels that are being used in Scotland, but I am not at all wedded to the idea, that it can be expected reasonably for a long time that the bulk of the fish should be landed by the Irish boats. Of course, that would be an advantage if it could be got, but it is not a necessity. Of course, it is good for the country to land the fish wherever does it—I do not look upon it at all in that way, Mr. Sutherland. You know the Atlantic is a big enough field for other boats as well as Irish boats to fish from, and the more that boats come to it and open it up all the better will it be for the local boats, for they will have a share in it.

18673. But in the meantime I want to call your attention to the fact of how cheaply you can get very good boats at the present time in Scotland?—That is so, but then I mentioned to you that those boats are not just of the suitable size for us. They are too big.

18674. Some of them may be?—And although they might suit very well for summer fishing, they are too big for the autumn fishing, and the men have to study, and get a boat suitable in size for both fishings.

18675. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I gather that the general drift of your answer is this, then, Mr. Duthie, that you are glad to see so many Scotch boats coming to the fishing, but that you would desire a larger number of Irish boats to be available for fishing than now frequent the fishing grounds?—Oh, yes.

18676. Sir JOHN COOMES.—Am I right in taking it as your view that the hope of the stability and the prospects of the Irish fishing is mainly a question of the in-shore fishing?—Oh, by no means. No; no one could say where the limit of fishing would be. Although the autumn fishing is now, as I said a little while ago, both for mackerel and for herrings confined to the in-shore, yet there are fishings to be developed out to sea that have not been touched, and I have no doubt that will be the work of the future.

18677. But at present and in the immediate future it is the in-shore fishing that you think is the field upon which there must be the most development?—Well, it is difficult to say that. You have the in-shore fishing along with the off-shore fishing. Well, the off-shore fishing in summer and the in-shore fishing in autumn seem to me to be the fishings that for the present will develop, and bring good results to the country.

18678. Yes, but that involves two different classes of boats, as I understand you; that as regards the in-shore fishing it is small boats, but as regards the off-shore fishing it is big boats, and your answer to Mr. Sutherland led me to suppose that you looked more to the in-shore than to the off-shore fishing?—I say that the Board have striven or done their best to get a size of boat suitable for both fishings, and now they have at least a half and more than a half of the boats that are suitable for both fishings. The fact that for the last two or three years these boats have carried on the summer herring fishing from Downings

is a proof of what I say, and at present the Board are building a considerable number of boats to replace some that were wrecked, and to give to crews that have been asking for these boats of a size that we expect will be found suitable for both summer and autumn fishing—both off-shore and in-shore fishing.

18679. But for this in-shore fishing you want a small class of boat—a smaller boat than for the off-shore?—A smaller boat would do the in-shore fishing, but that fishing that I have alluded to in Kennern Bay was all worked by yachts near to the shore and in a sheltered bay.

18680. But I am taking you on Mr. Sutherland's question. He suggested to you that cheap boats could be got in Scotland, and you pointed out to him that these larger boats were not suitable for fishing on the in-shore Irish coast?—I said so.

18681. Very good. That being so, the larger boats from other parts of the kingdom cannot compete with the Irish in the in-shore waters by reason of the size of these boats?—That is so.

18682. And therefore it is the in-shore fishing and this brings me back to my original question. The in-shore fishing of Ireland is really through natural circumstances an Irish preserve, is not that so?—Well, I do not know if you can call it an Irish preserve, but certainly the circumstances under which the fishing is carried on are not such as will induce boats from other parts to come to it, and if the fishermen from other parts of the country come to the Irish autumn fishings they invariably provide themselves with small boats. Now for years there has been a number of Scotch fishermen coming to Downings Bay for the autumn fishing, and they all have small-sized boats, as small as the smallest of the Board's boats are, and the crews usually leave the boats when they go home at Christmas, and there they remain till next September.

18683. The Scotch fishermen keep smaller boats on the Irish coast for the purpose of fishing the in-shore waters. Is that so?—That is so. There is some half dozen of them at least fishing from Downings for a number of years at the autumn fishing.

18684. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—So there is no Irish preserve?—There is no Irish preserve at all.

18685. Sir JOHN COOMES.—Now go on to the barrel-making?—When the Board took up the curing of herrings and mackerel it was necessary to provide barrels for these. Before they opened a coopership themselves they bought barrels from Scotland, but it was thought advisable, seeing that the curing was developing so much from the coast, to open a coopership, and train some of the local lads to coopership, and in 1865 they opened a coopership at Teelin. This was placed under the charge of a competent cooper from Scotland, and six local lads were taken on to serve an apprenticeship, the usual apprenticeship that coopers do serve, of four years; they completed the apprenticeship, and the work has gone on satisfactorily. And then, in 1866, when the herring fishing developed so rapidly at Burtport, the Board found it necessary to open another coopership there. They bought suitable premises for it, and the success of the bakery at that place made it necessary that something should be done. Well, local lads were taken on as apprentices there in the same way as at Teelin, and on the same conditions, and the coopership there was also placed in charge of a competent Scotch cooper the same as at Teelin. Well, at Burtport the coopership has been a steady success up to 1866, when the short fishing took place. The Board have on hand some of the barrels that they have made at Burtport. Last year they were not able to sell them all—perhaps about half of them—but that is just a natural consequence where fishings have to be depended upon. You cannot expect every year that the fish will be got, but you must prepare for it whatever way it may turn out.

18686. Can you tell me in reference to this matter of the coopership at Burtport whether the Board sell the barrels at the ordinary cooper's profit?—The Board have always sold the barrels at what they have cost them to make—that is, everything is charged against the price of the barrels, the cost of the materials, the freight of the materials in bringing them from wherever they are brought from to Burtport, the wages paid to the apprentices and journeymen, and all charges, including depreciation of 7 per cent. per year upon the property.

Feb. 15, 1867.
Mr. A. E.
Duthie.

Feb 18, 1905.

Mr. A. T.
Dunne.

18867. Upon the capital expended on the property?—Yes; and also 25 per cent. per year depreciation of the working plant.

18868. I see!—So that it has been conducted on purely commercial lines and up to now it has paid its way.

18869. Only one other question on that point. Are these barrels sold at exactly the same price or are they able to sell cheaper than barrels imported?—Including the freights on imported barrels there is little or no difference upon the price that they are sold at.

18890. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I think we had different evidence at Burtport to that. What do you charge for a barrel?—Well, it all depends on what the material costs us. When the Board first began making barrels, staves were much cheaper than they are now, and iron hoops were much cheaper and other materials did not cost so much, and then the Board sold the barrels at 3s. 9d. each. Since then there has been a constant rise going on in the price of materials, and last year the Board were obliged to make a charge of 4s. 3d. for a barrel in order to get their own money out of it.

18891. What would be such barrels imported into Burtport?—Well, something about the same. Most of those barrels were sold to Scotch curers, and if they did not find that that was as good for them as taking barrels from home it is not likely that they would purchase them.

18892. We had evidence at Burtport that the Scotch barrels were cheaper by 4d or 5d?

Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—That was my impression, too.

18893. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Mr. Kavanagh is perfectly right in saying that there was a controversy about the prices there, but at all events you have stated to the Commission now that the full quality is charged in the price of the barrels?—That is so. We never fix the price. The Board never fixes the price of the barrels. They see that they are paid first what it has cost them to produce them and then they deduct all the other charges. The Board want to get no profit, but simply the barrels to pay their way.

18894. Mr. STURTEWANT.—Perhaps the best way of testing it would be by the answer to the question whether any of the Scotch cures bring barrels?—Oh, yes.

18895. Would you be able, from your coopers, to supply all the cures of Downing's Bay and Burtport?—Oh, no; we could not supply those with all that they want.

18896. So that they are not so much compelled by the exigency of prices as influenced by the supply of barrels being there?—They cannot all get so much from the Board's coopers, and then all bring barrels with them. The Board are great that the coopers was to be a universal provider. Their object was to train lads as coopers, and the fact is that they have trained something like twenty-eight now.

18897. But it lies to reason that if cures that come from Scotland could get barrels in Ireland at the same price they would not bring them at all?—I do not say that they would not bring some, but most of the Scotch cures have to keep their coopers employed all the year round, and in order to clear their hands of barrels they would send them to any fishing.

18898. But the fact that the supply is not in this place equal to the demand is quite sufficient answer to why the Scotch cures bring barrels with them. The very fact that they could not get all their wants met from your coopers is a reason why they should bring them with them quite irrespective of the price?—And even if they knew that they could get all their wants supplied, some of them would bring some of their barrels with them.

18899. People like less trouble rather than more?—They must get their barrels filled. They are not to be kept standing empty.

18900. And then I want to ask a question, whether these twenty-eight apprentices that you have mentioned here that have served their four years' apprenticeship have turned out good coopers?—Some of them have turned out very good coopers, and they are all employed in making barrels, and not all perhaps in the country now, but all who are employed in making barrels for the herring cures work during the time the herring fishing lasts.

18901. Have any gone elsewhere to find employment as coopers?—Some of them have been working in Scotland and some of them have started making barrels

on their own account, and so on, but they are all employed at the various herring fishing and curing stations.

18902. Such as Downing's Bay?—Downing's Bay, Burtport, or wherever they are wanted. They will go anywhere.

18903. And have they the same opportunities as in Scotland for learning the trade?—They are taken just on the same terms as Scotch apprentice coopers are.

18904. And have they the advantage that the Scotch coopers have of seeing the whole method of curing herrings?—Every one of the lads are allowed to go out to the curing stations during the fishing and they are usually employed by some of the Scotch cures and they see the best style of curing being done, and my opinion is, that most of them are very smart at curing. They could not fail, you know.

18905. Do you expect that these men will find permanent employment and that sort of thing once they begin to set up coopers of their own?—Well, some of them certainly have set up coopers of their own, and that is one of the results that should be looked forward to. The Board do not wish to carry on the coopers any longer than they are obliged to, but up to now it has been much better for them to have kept hold of the coopers as they are training lads as practical coopers for the coast, and it has opened up employment for a lot of lads where they can earn good wages and have constant employment.

18906. You know the important part that fish curing has played in the development of fishing in Scotland. I daresay you will be prepared to admit that it is a very important part?—Oh, yes.

18907. Have you any men rising up in Ireland to do the same sort of thing as these men in Scotland who have made the barrel-making itself?—Oh, undoubtedly there are.

18908. Have you any Irish firm or individual that cures largely?—There are firms going into the coopers and doing a share.

18909. Have you one in your mind?—Well, some of the cures yet, perhaps, have taken up coopers to any great extent.

18910. Doing a share of making barrels are they?—There are some of them who do and others who do not. For instance, in Kerry there are not so many barrels.

Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Better not to pursue this till we get to the paragraph dealing with it.

18911. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When the Commission sat in Burtport two criticisms were passed on the Board's coopers. The one was that it did not take in a sufficient number of apprentices. The other related to the supply of staves to two young coopers who were out of their apprenticeship. Now, we will take these separately. In view of the fact that there is a demand to excess of the supply of barrels, would it be advisable to put on more apprentices than you have at your coopers at Burtport?—At Burtport we have always had it full. Under present arrangements we only have a foreman who looks after the apprentices, and there are usually half a dozen of them employed, and although in some years we could have sold more barrels than we had to sell yet this year we did not sell all we had. I will just give you the whole matter of how the sale of barrels stands. There have been about 6,000 barrels made at Burtport coopers, of which 3,385 were sold and 2,615 left unsold, so that you see we did not sell half of the barrels that we made this year there. This is the first time that this has happened.

18912. Had the storms not interrupted the fishing all those barrels would have been sold?—Had the fishing been anything like what it was last year they would have all been sold.

18913. And in taking your apprentices you have to count season with season?—Oh, yes, with apprentices you must.

18914. And you do not wish to have a very great number of barrels in stock?—The Board's policy has simply been to train coopers. It has not been, as I said before, to be a universal provider of barrels.

18915. But looking to the extent of the curing trade in that part of the country, if you had accommodation for thousands of barrels would it not be a good policy to take on more coopers?—Well, it would be better policy, I should say, if some of the merchants or coopers there would put up and carry on the work themselves.

18916. You expect that will come?—I have no doubt that will come. I do not know that it would be

Feb. 15, 1907.

Mr. A. T. Dehlie.

good policy to go any further than the Board have done. They have now set the trade on its feet and they have shown to others that they can be made there. It has paid its way and they are prepared, I have no doubt, to give further encouragement to any outsiders who may take up the work.

18917. Some of the witnesses there went the length of saying that it should be the policy of the Board to bring about the production and selling of barrels sufficient to supply to the trade on the Irish coast.—Well, I would not care to say that, my lord.

18918. You think that might come gradually?—That might come gradually. I do not think it is a part of the Board's work to do that.

18919. Mr. STUTHERLAND.—You are not so socialistic as that?—I am not.

18920. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—One encouragement to go on with this industry is the fact that the Board has made no loss on it.—That is so.

18921. You would not consider it reasonable that the supply should be no great as to discourage people who come from a distance, fishermen and coopers from Scotland, bringing in their own barrels if they wish, or any local man who chooses making his barrels and selling his barrels?—I understand that that has been the line that the Board has usually gone upon.

18922. Apart from any small difference in price it would seem reasonable that the Scotch coopers might desire to employ his own people at home for a certain portion of the year in making barrels, which barrels he would take with him to the Irish coast?—Yes; I really alluded to that by saying that they wished to employ their own coopers during the winter time.

18923. Some complaint was made about the Board not supplying according to covenant a certain quantity of staves to young coopers out of their apprenticeship at Burtport. Do you know anything of that matter?—I remember last year there was a considerable scarcity of staves, and if the Board had not purchased in October it would have been almost impossible to have got them. There was one young cooper at Burtport who did not apply for the staves until January, or perhaps, the beginning of February. Two or three months before that the Board had purchased all the staves they could get and had made arrangements to dispose of them to the coopers. This cooperator asked for more staves than the Board could possibly get for him, but they offered him a loan if he could provide himself with the staves. He did not take the loan. He said he was not in a position to get the staves brought over to Burtport for him, but the Board gave him a certain supply out of their own staves that they had at Burtport. There were two brothers—I think that is the case you allude to—who severed their apprenticeship with the Board at Burtport, and after their apprenticeship was over they went over to Scotland and worked for a year, which was a very wise thing for them to do. Then when they came back to Burtport the Board gave them employment again in the coöperation. One of the lads went to America. He came back from America, and they started two years ago to make barrels themselves, and they applied to the Board for materials which they got, and last year they applied again when there was a scarcity of staves. In fact, they were scarcely to be got, and all the Board could do was to give the lads some of their own staves out of their Burtport supply, which they did. The lads here asked for staves again for this coming season, which they will get, but one of them has just again left for America.

18924. Mr. KAYENHORN.—They are working on their own account?—They are working for themselves the same as the Kerry coopers are doing.

18925. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your explanation seems to show that the Board did everything in their power to supply these young men with staves, and you have no doubt that such applications are sure to have the attention of the Board in future?—Undoubtedly. The Board's wish is to give every attention to such applications, and in the circumstances they did their best. They could not have done more. In fact they took away some of the supplies they had to keep their own men working.

18926. Mr. STUTHERLAND.—My impression at the time was that there was not much substance in the complaint.—These are the facts of my tale.

18927. Sir JOHN COLVILL.—Would you now proceed to the long line fishing, the cod and ling?—Perhaps I might state the number of barrels the Board has made at the Donegal coöperation.

18928. We have got that in the appendix in our first report?—Up to date they have sold all they made except these 3,000.

18929. All these particulars are on record?—Cod and ling fishing was carried on in yaws from Tullin, Malinbeg, also from Tory Island during the early days of the Board's work with very satisfactory results, and in the North Mayo stations of Portlathan, Portlady, Malinbeg, and Inishow. The cod and ling fishing was carried on in canvas.

18930. Mr. STUTHERLAND.—What is a canvas?—A canvas is a craft made with twigs and covered over with some sort of strong cotton that is tarred.

18931. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—They call them curraachs?—Yes.

18932. They are not known on the Irish coast as canvas but as curraachs?—Yes.

18933. Mr. STUTHERLAND.—I never saw one except in an exhibition. How do they proceed to sea in it?—They just pull it.

18934. Are not they afraid of these being pierced?—You would wonder how expert they are at handling these curraachs.

18935. How far to sea can they go with them?—They don't often go great distances to sea, but I have seen them three and four miles off.

18936. Have they any sail?—They have small sails. Down on the Kerry coast the bulk of the autumn mackerel fishing, especially round Dingle, is carried on in these curraachs or canvas, but they are of a larger size than the canvas about Mayo.

18937. Have they leads?—No, they have not. The frame is wicker work, and over this the tarred cloth is stretched.

18938. It is the cheapest form of boat you know of?—Yes. There are no canoes in Scotland, unless you find them off the western islands.

18939. No; I never saw one?—Then there are none in Scotland.

18940. What would they cost?—They would cost a few pounds. Anything from £5 to £8.

Mr. Green.—In Kerry they cost £2.

18941. Mr. STUTHERLAND.—In the making of them a trade?—There are handy men among the fishermen who make these canvas.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It was in an enlarged vessel of that description we sent Saint Columba across to Scotland.

Mr. STUTHERLAND.—The place he landed in Scotland is called Portnacraich.

18942. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The curraach enables one to land on a rough shore?—You can get on to the shore with it. It would not do to land on sharp stones or rocks, but on a strand there is not much difficulty in landing, and you can get out on the dry ground safely from a curraach. As well as in the places I have mentioned, the Board carried on cod and ling fishing first at Achill Island. In its early days, at the Donegal stations, large quantities of cod and ling were got. These were almost all bought from the fishermen, and cured; that is, split, salted, and dried in the usual way that cod and ling are cured and dried in Scotland. As the North Mayo stations fair catches were got, and they were also all bought by the Board. For a good many years this was the principal fishing at the Donegal and Mayo stations, and a good deal of money was earned by the men. In order to find out whether cod and ling could be got further out to sea the Board, in 1894 I think it was, brought over three large boats from Scotland to do the long line fishing from Tullin. This experiment was satisfactory, as there were good takes of cod and ling and orange cod, and it led to the introduction of an improved type of boat. The first two main boats were got for this from Scotland, and were given to Tullin crews. But these were soon largely increased in number. And, having been the first at long line fishing, the Tullin men were the first to go to Dowling's Bay in these boats for the better fishing; and they were the first to open up, as it were, the autumn fishing at Dowling's, that has since developed so rapidly. I should say that the Board provided an instructor in each of these boats, and under the instructor the crews soon picked up the fishing work, and also mending nets, and looking after the gear, and so on. About the same time the Board got some Greenanville yaws built, and gave them to the crews on the North Mayo coast, at Portlathan and Portlady.

18943. Mr. STUTHERLAND.—Why are these called Greenanville yaws?—I don't know; but that is the

Feb. 16, 1907.

Mr. A. T.
Duffin.

same they seem to have. They are yards of the Donegal hulk, and it may be that they were first built at Greenacree, but Portrush is the great centre for building them now.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I suppose that they were largely built at Greenacree, in Inishowen.

1894. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is very like the Shetland skiff—it has not so much sheer as the Shetland skiff. Scotch fishermen were also sent to the North Mayo stations to instruct the crews in the handling of the yawl, and also in the long line fishing. For a number of years the fishing on the North Mayo stations resulted in a very satisfactory manner. Considerable quantities of cod and ling were cured. Then the long line fishing was further extended on the Galway coast, to the Aran Islands and other places. I need not go into all the particulars. You have them on the notes there. At the Aran Islands yaws were introduced on the fourth island. Previous to the introduction of these they had nothing but oases or oarades; and at Killybegs the men fished in the nabbs—these were the boats they had for the mackerel fishing—they fished long lines from them, and did very well. During the early years of the Board's work large takes of cod and ling were got, and earnings up to £150 a boat, that is, among the large boats, were quite common.

1895. Did they since pass into Irish hands?—They were in Irish hands from the first.

1896. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—They were in Irish hands, under Scotch instructions?—Yes; but the instructions were provided by the Board; but many of the crews were fishing several years themselves.

1897. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Did they make a good thing of it?—They did very well, but during the last few years there has been a considerable falling off in long line fishing. However, I have no doubt it will take on again, for it is the nature of long line fishing that it comes and goes. It seems to be even more fluctuating than the herring or other net fishing.

1898. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Has the falling off been simultaneous at all these places?—It has been simultaneous all round the coast. At Inishowen, round to the north of the Fylge, considerable takes of cod used to be got, but since it fell off on the Donegal Mayo, and Galway coast it has also fallen off at Inishowen. There has been a simultaneous decrease in cod and ling fishing all round the coast; not only here, but on the Scotch coast, where it has not been so successful as it used to be.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is so.

1899. Mr. KATANAUGH.—Is there any reason given for it?—I could not give any reason for it.

1900. It is not the first time it has happened—it is not the first time it has happened. It happened some thirty years ago round the west coast of Ireland.

1901. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You know some of our scientists say it depends a great deal on change in the temperature of the water?—It may; but it is hard to know. I am afraid scientists are as much at a loss as we are. In reference to the introduction of a better type of boat, I have already referred to the introduction of Zulu boats at Teelin. This type of boat has been so successful that there are now over eighty of them that have been given to crews in Donegal on the shore system. These boats now are almost entirely employed at the herring fishing, and in order to adapt them for the summer and autumn fishing larger and more improved boats are now built than was built at first. For years the Board has had many applications for Zulu boats that it has been able to supply. The development of the spring mackerel fishing on the Galway coast led to the introduction of nabbs. This class of boat is very suitable for mackerel fishing. There are now several nabbs owned by crews about Burtonport which are employed by them in herring fishing.

1902. Where do they go in these nabbs from Burtonport?—They fish about Burtonport, and go to the summer fishing at Downings. For the last two years there were several of the Burtonport nabbs there. They follow the herring fishing from Burtonport, and fish as far north as Rosbeg, and as far north as Downings Bay. The Board, when they procured cod and ling, had to find markets for them, and they sold them almost entirely in Liverpool and Belfast; and during the years that they had considerable quantities they had no difficulty in finding a ready sale for them, at an average price, equal to the price that was being paid for cured fish from other places. The cured mackerel have all been sold in America, which seems to be the only market for it.

1903. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Is that due to the fact that there is no demand elsewhere?—Not for cured mackerel. The Congested Districts Board, ten or twelve years ago, as an experiment, sent a lot of cured mackerel to a good many Continental markets, but there were no satisfactory results got from any of them—that is, no results that would have warranted recommending the markets to any extent to send the mackerel there.

1904. Is there no home demand for cured mackerel?—Little or none. The demand for it seems to be confined entirely to America.

1905. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—To Chicago and New York?—To New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, and, I suppose, all over the inland cities of America.

1906. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There are also good centres for disposing of cured herrings?—New York seems to be the principal centre for disposing of the cured Donegal herrings, although I learn that during the last couple of years Boston has been opened up for cured herrings, and some people there have been buying quantities of Donegal cured herrings. As a result, in the year 1905, there were 32,000 barrels of spring and autumn cured mackerel sent to America from Ireland, which shows that there is a considerable trade in it.

1907. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How many go to the barrel?—200 lbs. is the weight that is put into the barrel.

1908. What would be the average number of fish?—It depends on the size of the fish. The average that is wanted would be under 300 to a barrel, but in many cases they go over that.

1909. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—These cured fish that were sent to America, so far as they were mackerel, were mainly from the Kerry coast?—Largely from the Kerry coast, but a good many from the Mayo and Galway coasts as well, and from the coast of Cork.

1910. Do you think that as you expect herring fishing off the Kerry coast so it may be possible that a mackerel fishing could be developed off the northern coast?—The mackerel on the northern coast are not so large. They don't seem to be quite such a good class of fish as they get on the west and south coasts, and they don't seem to be so plentiful. Other markets than America have been tried on the Continent for the cured mackerel, but in some of them have satisfactory prices been got. America remains the one market for ordinary cured mackerel. In the years that the Board cured herrings in Donegal they sold the most of these in Ireland; but for many years, from 1894 to 1907, the Board cured from 1,500 to 2,000 barrels of herrings each year.

1911. You say those were mainly disposed of in Ireland?—Yes.

1912. Have you any idea to what extent the consumption of cured fish in the inland towns of Ireland is met by an Irish supply, or how far the supply is imported?—I think most of the supply is imported. They would in Ireland not give the price that can be got for these Irish herrings in other places. It is merely a case of the herrings being sent to other markets on account of the high prices that are paid for them.

1913. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But with regard to cod and ling, is not it the case that in Catholic countries of Europe there is always a large demand in the Lenten season? Is not there such a demand in Ireland?—I suppose there is.

1914. How is that met?—You don't know what the tastes in fish in a country are until you try it. In some countries the taste goes to one sort of fish and in other countries it goes to another.

1915. What does it go to in Ireland?—In Ireland I find that there is a considerable taste for a salted herring; but, as I say, the high prices that can be got for these Downings Bay herrings have made those almost prohibitive.

1916. They were a small element in the case; but what about cured salt fish, cod and ling, in which there is such large exportation from Scotland to Spain and the Mediterranean—in not there a demand for that fish in Ireland?—Not perhaps to the same extent, but there is always a demand and a certain sale for dried salt fish in Ireland. Large quantities of saithe can be sold, especially in the North, about Belfast, and also considerable quantities of dried cod and ling.

1917. Is not it a fact that these come in vessels from Scotland—and I took it that his lordship's question was directed towards ascertaining why that supply should

not be met in Ireland itself from its own fisheries.—If we had the fish, or these prices came up to what can be got for them by sending them to other markets, no doubt they would be sent to the Irish market.

18968. For instance, what was your market for those cod and ling—were they exported?—We sold them entirely in Belfast and Liverpool. Perhaps the big proportion were sold in Liverpool, but a considerable quantity was sold in Belfast.

18969. That might have been for export, even in Belfast?—It may have been; but, all the same, I think that most of those sent to Belfast were sold in the country.

18970. It is a fact there is a good deal of fish imported from Scotland of the cheaper kind that it is reasonable to expect might be got in Ireland itself?—Eventually.

18971. Perhaps the meaning of the question was that you might keep the development of that before your mind?—The Board has always had that before its mind. The fact of its disposing of the cured herrings entirely in Ireland showed they were giving Ireland the preference.

18972. You can never expect to sell your cured herrings in Ireland. They are too expensive?—They have now got too expensive, but in the early days of herring fishing and herring curing the herrings were almost all sold in Ireland, or rather the Board sold them mostly in Ireland.

18973. But there is a demand for fish in Ireland as there is in other places. Sir Antony MacDonnell stated here yesterday that fish are imported into Ireland?—Yes, there are fish imported into Ireland. No doubt a great many of the herrings at present being cured in Stormway will be imported into Ireland and sold during the next few months. A considerable quantity of fresh fish is, however, landed by the trawlers now working round the Irish coast, and a considerable quantity of that fish is, at any rate, sent to the Dublin market.

18974. We have heard a great deal of the organisation of industry in Ireland. I have read until my head is almost cracked about it. Did it never occur to these organisers of industry that they might do something to open up a market in Ireland for fish caught off Ireland, and bring the market as close to the scene of production as possible?—That is so, but on the other hand, the object would be to get the most money out of the article and to bring the most money into the country, and if an article that is being manufactured in Ireland can sell at a better price in some other country than in Ireland I don't see why the producers of the article should not get the full benefit of that price.

18975. That is quite sound, but you yourselves increased the price of the Downing's Bay herrings by finding a market for them?—The action of the Board no doubt has tended to that but the great point that the Board had in view was for the men to get the highest price for the herrings, and when the merchants came to enter into competition both in the market and in buying the fish from the fishermen it has brought this about, and when they bought fish at high prices they had to make every endeavour to sell them at equally high prices, else the business could not have gone on. Fortunately the quality of the fish has come to the rescue to help them.

18976. I took it Sir Antony's questions yesterday were directed to the fact that terms of a certain size were not properly supplied with fish. Take a town like Lurgan. Will you find in such a town a good fish shop, regularly supplied with fish, where fresh fish can be got every day?—I suppose in a town like Lurgan you would, but really I am not well up in the supplies to these towns.

18977. That is a point you might kindly bring under the notice of those who are organising industry in Ireland?—You know the Congested Districts Board in these early days made every effort they could in the way of making inequalities at these several markets as to the sale for fish, and I think they continue to do it still. There is no chance lost that can possibly be got in the way of introducing Irish fish into any market in Ireland.

18978. It is possibly not the duty of the Congested Districts Board?—But in developing the fishing the Board's object certainly has been to get the best price obtainable for the fishermen.

18979. Sir James Cusack.—You summarise your duties in this respect in this way: the Board's duties are to develop the catching of fish, the curing of fish, and getting the best prices for fish?—That was the

object the Board had in view to begin with, but now that part of the work has been taken out of their hands by other merchants, and they look upon their duties now as more in the way of supplying men with boats, nets, and fishing gear, and fostering the trade in every way they can. The developing of the markets and the sale for herrings and mackerel have, I should say, come now to as high a position as can possibly be reached under present circumstances.

18980. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you know the institutions of Ireland, such as asylums and workhouses, create much demand for fish caught in the Irish seas?—I could not say. I am not very conversant with the local demands for fish, but I should say that as a natural consequence they would.

18981. Bearing on Mr. Sutherland's questions would not you consider it a good programme to endeavour to bring out of the Irish seas the fish required for supplying the demands in the inland parts of Ireland?—Certainly. I should look upon this as one of the directions in which the effort to further develop it should be made.

18982. And bring the fishing by the best available organisation into close contact with those centres of consumption?—That is so. Since 1897 the Board have scarcely cured any herrings on account of so many merchants now being engaged in the business, and these merchants have opened up and developed markets in other countries for Irish cured herrings. The autumn cured Downing's Bay herrings are mostly sold in New York, and high prices are paid for them. The prices of the Downing's Bay herrings are closely followed up by the other Congested cured herrings, from Burtport, Magheragall, Redbay, and these other places. There are still small quantities of Donegal cured herrings sold in Ireland, but on account of higher prices being paid for them in America the bulk of them are sent there. During 1900 we estimated that about 25,000 barrels of Donegal herrings were sent to America. So far as I know they were all sold at satisfactory prices. At any rate I never heard of any complaints of an unusually low price having been got for them. The summer-cured herrings are almost all marketed in Germany and Russia, but some small parcels of them are also sent to New York.

18983. Sir James Cusack.—I suppose that they are not sent direct. Are they sent to some great shipping port and then shipped, or are we to understand that the cured herrings are shipped from the west coast of Ireland to Germany and Russia?—They are shipped to St. Petersburg direct from the west coast of Ireland. From Downing's Bay several cargoes of herrings have gone direct to St. Petersburg. For the German markets they are shipped to Glasgow, reloaded from Glasgow to Leith, and shipped from Leith to Hamburg or some other German port, but the herrings sent to St. Petersburg are almost all shipped direct from Downing's Bay.

18984. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are they shipped in Russian vessels?—I don't know if they are in Russian vessels. I think Norwegianas seem to be the principal carriers of direct cargoes.

18985. Mr. Sutherland.—Are they sailing ships or steamers?—Steamers.

18986. Sir James Cusack.—Do these steamers pay port and harbour dues anything approaching what they would pay in another port?—They pay the port and harbour dues that they charged at Downing's Bay, whatever they may be.

18987. My point is this. These steamers when they call at Glasgow or any other port to take in cargo would have to pay heavy port dues; and, of course, you may say that the great object of getting it is for the improvement of piers and harbours, but can you tell me do these vessels coming from foreign ports, perhaps foreign vessels, pay harbour dues anything approaching the equivalent of what they would have to pay at another port?—They all at Downing's Bay pay the rate that is levied on all vessels. Every vessel or fishing boat that comes in has to pay the rate that is levied on that class of vessel wherever it is, and these steamers loading herrings for Russia pay the usual dues at the rate of so much per ton charged on vessels loading for foreign ports, and the steamers that come to Downing's and take herrings to Glasgow pay the same, and on every barrel of herrings that is to be shipped the merchant has to pay dues, and he also has to pay dues on the cran of herrings discharged. That is so far as I take it, he pays dues on the herrings landed fresh, and again he pays dues on the herrings shipped cured.

Feb. 15, 1907.

Mr. A. T. Duffin.

Feb 15, 1907.

Mr. A. T. Dublin.

18958. What authority has the fixing of the amount of the tolls?—The County Council.

18959. Who gets the tolls?—The County Council gets them.

18960. Is it owing to the expenditure of the Congested Districts Board's money that piers and harbours and boats have been supplied, and this industry sprang up, and a certain amount of profit is derivable from the fact that having created a supply of fish large vessels come, pay dues, and ship them, but the increasing body of the movement, the Congested Districts Board, does not get the revenue?—No.

18961. The revenue goes to the County Council?—The Congested Districts Board does not get any revenue.

18962. Could you hand in a memorandum, say, for 1906 of the number of steamers that have called for fish at the different ports that you have been describing, their tonnage, and the dues charged, and could you ascertain what similar vessels of similar tonnage calling at Derry or Glasgow or Liverpool would have to pay as tolls?—I will do my best to get it.*

18963. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Will you take it for 1905?

Sir JOHN COOMES.—1905 will do quite as well. I might be able to get up to the end of 1905 just as conveniently. The County Council look after the piers and keep them in repair, and find a harbourmaster. As I have said, the summer-cured herrings are nearly all sent to markets in Germany and Russia, though small parcels of them may be sent to New York. The summer herrings cured in Donegal, especially the Downing's Bay herrings, sell at the highest price paid for cured herrings anywhere, not excepting the prices paid for the famous Castle Bay herrings. I would mention here that the fishermen get the full benefit of these prices. Last summer at Downing's Bay from 23 to 25 per cwt was paid for herrings from the start to the close of the season. This is a benefit of which the fishermen get full advantage. I mean that the fishermen get full advantage of the high prices paid to the extent who don't seem to take any advantage of the men.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Yesterday I mentioned that there was a Parliamentary return of the expenditure from public funds on piers and harbours in the three countries.† That return was made in 1896, and covers the whole period from 1850.‡ At the end of the return is a summary which, perhaps, I may read. The amount granted by Parliament to England and Wales was £1,644,764 0s. 7d.; the amount granted to Scotland was £741,835 1s. 8d.; and the amount granted to Ireland was £413,866 10s. 11d. Then there are some advances by Public Works Loan Board in England and Scotland, and by the Board of Works in Ireland. For England and Wales the advances were £1,638,030, for Scotland they were £1,010,440, and for Ireland they were £726,301 2s. 5d.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But of course it was a proper of the grants for fishery piers that the examination was yesterday. These include harbours of all kinds, commercial harbours.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Yes, all sorts of piers. § 18964. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Your next head is the fish curing?—In its early years the Board worked a number of fish curing stations on the Donegal, Mayo, and Galway coasts. They bought fresh herring, mackerel, cod and ling from the fishermen, and cured them at these stations. In order to have the curing properly done, they employed skilled fish curers in the several branches of curing, and they, working under the Board, set about training the local workers in the curing of cod, ling, mackerel and herrings.

18965. I don't think we need take you through that, subject to this question—the Board subsequently gave it up, and it was taken up by private enterprise?—Yes.

18966. It is not, therefore, that the curing failed, but that the Board, having established it, passed them into private hands?—Yes.

18967. They endeavoured, as far as possible, to work upon business lines so as to make it a paying concern, and insure that people would see that the business was opened up for them on sound lines?—The proof of this fact is that the whole of these stations have been taken up and are worked by merchants, and carried on by them on the same lines as they were carried on by the Board.

18968. The share boat system is the next subject with which you deal?—The Board commenced giving boats on the share system in Donegal, and by doing this it has enabled many men who were too poor to get them by any other means to obtain large boats and fishing gear.

18969. Perhaps you had better state exactly what the share boat system is?—The share boat system is that a crew will get a boat and the necessary fishing gear at its prime cost, or net cost, and instead of having the usual formal loan, the Board enter into an agreement with them as crew of the boat, and the terms on which they are to fish are that the earnings of the boat are divided into nine shares. There are six members of each crew, and five shares are paid to the members of the crew.

19003. Five shares for six men?—Yes, five-ninths of the total earnings are paid to the crew as earnings of the men. The Board for the first few years usually provide an instructor, a skilled fisherman, for each crew. One-ninth of the earnings is retained by the Board and placed to the credit of his wages. These instructors are paid so much weekly wages. Sometimes the one-ninth share does far more than to pay his wages. Sometimes it does far less. But in order to deal fairly with the men, and not ask them to pay what they don't earn, that system was adopted. Then three of the shares are placed to the credit of the sinking fund, for paying off the cost of the boats and nets, and also renewals of nets and repairs and upkeep of the boat, and when the crew are sufficiently skilled to be able to fish themselves without the services of an instructor, the one-ninth share which had been charged and placed to the credit of instruction is placed to the credit of the sinking fund, so that instead of three-ninths being applied towards the cost of the boats and fishing gear, the crew pay four-ninths of it, that is, four-ninths are retained by the Board.

19001. Then the crew pay no interest?—Yes; there is interest at 2½ or 3 per cent. charged on the loans for the time they run.

19002. They pay that out of the shares?—The Board ran an account with each boat, and the interest is charged against the boat in this account.

19003. Before the shares are paid?—No; just as the work of the boat continues. Say the boat cost £200 when she is built and fitted out with fishing gear, and at the end of the first fishing season £100 of that might be paid back out of the share that the Board retains and placed to the credit of the sinking fund. The interest on the £200 is only charged while the £200 is due. When the debt comes down to £100 the charge for interest is reduced in proportion, and this continues until the debt is paid off.

19004. But as a fact the Board receive interest on the original outlay for the boats and fishing gear?—Yes; in every case they do.

19005. When the sinking fund is paid off, is the boat then made over to the crew?—The boat and nets are probably handed over to the crew and become their property.

19006. In what form are they handed over to the crew—is each man entitled to a share of it?—Yes.

19007. Has that worked out?—It has worked out fairly well. Of course, as always may happen with fishermen, small differences may occur, but no more serious differences have occurred under the share boat system than under the loan boat system.

19008. How can you make a boat the property of six men who might break off relations next year?—They can all have their names entered in the register as part owners of the boat, or if they choose, to have an understanding among themselves, one man may register.

* In the year 1906 about 50 steamers, each of from 200 to 300 tons burden, made calls on the Donegal coast in connection with the herring fishing. About 50 of these called at Downing's Bay, but at most of the other places where they called no dues were charged, so that a comparison could not be made between the amount of dues paid on similar tonnage at Derry or Glasgow.—A. T. D.

† See question 18487.

‡ Parliamentary paper No. 355 of 1896.

§ Parliamentary paper 243 of 1902.

1896. The amount so spent derived from Imperial sources was £106,509, of which £136,431 was by way of grant and £50,068 by way of loan. The total expenditure derived from Irish sources (mostly from the Irish Church Fund) was £222,257, of which £222,972 was by way of grant, and £27,285 by way of loan. The amount spent on maintenance by counties was £37,544.

19009. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do the six men sign an agreement with the Board at the start?—Yes.

19010. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Suppose one of these men owes money, can anybody detain on his share of the boat?—Not so long as the boat remained the property of the Board, and supposing he owed money when the boat became his own property, they might detain on his share, but they could not detain on the other five shares.

19011. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you know if there is a special Act dealing with the point in Ireland as there is in Scotland?—I don't think there is.

19012. Are you aware of the Fishing Boats (Scotland) Act of 1884, I think it is?—I am not aware of it.

19013. It was found absolutely necessary in Scotland before loans were made to pass this Act in order to legalise a mortgage on a boat?—But was not their having the boats registered under the Merchants Shipping Act sufficient?

19014. It was not supposed to be sufficient?—I was going to say that that is done in the case of boats given upon loans in Ireland.

19015. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say there are six boats handed over, and twelve paid up; that is eighteen. How many more are there in the Donegal fishery?—There are six handed over, and, I think, eleven others that are paid up, and these eleven boats have an average standing to their credit of £87 each.

19016. Each boat?—Yes. It is standing to their credit just now with the Board. Of course, they have not been squared off yet. This is the result of the close of the present fishing, and I see the sum ranges from £13 to £87. There is only one sum under £50, and there is only one under £30.

19017. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—All these sums will be payable to the crews when the account is squared?—Yes, whenever the account is squared.

19018. And the boat and gear are fully paid for?—Yes, and will be handed over to them.

19019. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is that a balance for one year's fishing?—That is the result of the work during the time that the boat has been worked by and paid for by the crew. This is how the accounts of these boats stood on the 30th September last.

19020. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You explained to the Chairman that while the boats remain the property of the Board one-month of the take is assigned to the cost of instruction?—Yes.

19021. When these boats become the property of the crews, have the crews, if they still need instruction, got to pay for it themselves?—Yes, but as a rule when a crew has had a boat for a few years and had the benefit of an instructor when by the time they have paid off the debt on the boat they don't need an instructor, and many of these crews since they ceased having an instructor have come to be most expert fishermen.

19022. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that more boats are being applied for on the share boat system than the Board can supply, and that six Zulu boats of the largest size are given each year to Donegal crews. That rather points to the fishing industry extending there?—Yes, and expanding. Perhaps I might just be allowed to make a few remarks. I find on the list of these Donegal share boats that there are thirteen other boats up to the 31st of December who owe the Board from £4 to £20 each, that gives an average sum of only £16 that is due upon each of these boats. That makes up a considerable amount of the general indebtedness.

19023. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Will you explain briefly the circumstances connected with the recent disaster at Downing's Bay, when twelve of these boats were lost?—The boats were anchored at Downing's away from the pier, a little below it, when one of the severest storms that ever was known on the coast burst over the coast one day. I think it was the 2nd or 3rd December last. The sea that rolled in was something awful. The boats were well moored. They had each two anchors out, and strong chains attached to them. The anchors each weighed from one cwt. to 1½ cwt. The sea was so heavy that the anchors seemed to have been rolled over the sand at the bottom as if they had been stones. Twelve of the boats drifted, dragging their anchors with them, to the rocks below the beach. Had they gone up on the strand between the hotel and the pier there would have been a possibility of saving a good many of them,

but the boats drifted on the rocks below the hotel owing to the way the wind was blowing, and the whole of them were lost. A very disappointing thing it was, and coming at the close of a most successful fishing it cast rather a blight over it. All the same it was just an act of God, and cannot be avoided.

19024. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Were they insured?—They were insured. The Board started an insurance scheme two years ago by which they insured boats against total loss.

19025. Sir JOHN GUNN.—How was the insurance effected?—The Board and the Department of Agriculture were the insurers.

19026. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They insured?—Yes, in order to encourage insurance among the fishermen, and in order to try and induce other companies to take the thing up.

19027. Did the Board and the Department pay premiums to an insurance company, or did they set aside money?—As far as I know they each gave £500 to an insurance fund, and then commenced to insure.

19028. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Each?—Yes, the Department and the Congested Districts Board each contributed £500.

19029. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you explain how the fishermen have been able to get on notwithstanding the disaster. The main part of the loss fell upon the fishermen?—Two-thirds of the value of the boats would be met out of the insurance fund. The fishermen, of course, would lose their fishing gear. Whatever fishing gear was lost would fall upon the fishermen.

19030. Is not this the fact, that all the property in the boats was lost with the exception of the £700 or £800 due to the Board?—There was only something like £200 or £300 due to the Board.

19031. And all the property with the exception of £200 or £300 is lost to the fishermen?—Oh, no. The insurance amounted to between £300 and £800 on the eleven or twelve boats lost. That seems to have to be made good to the fishermen.

19032. The Board just saw itself out of the insurance fund, and the balance of the insurance, I see, goes to the fishermen?—That is so.

19033. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Were there twelve boats destroyed?—I think there were eleven boats destroyed.

19034. If there were eleven boats destroyed, and there was only £1,000 in the insurance fund, and if the boats cost £300 each, there was not much margin after the Board had recouped itself to hand over to the fishermen?—The smaller boats would not have been valued at very much more than say £50 to £90, so that there would have been two-thirds of that sum. There were a few of the larger and more expensive boats among them.

19035. What is the estimated total loss on these boats altogether? Taking the eleven boats destroyed, what amount of money do you suppose they represented, including gear and everything?—Well, the boats and fishing gear that were lost would have run from £1,500 to £1,600. Perhaps £1,700 might be about it.

19036. Out of that £1,700 how much did the Board hand back to the fishermen?—Well, the matter has not been settled yet, but I should suppose that what the Board will do will be to credit the new boats the fishermen get with the amount of the insurance.

19037. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—And the amount of insurance the Secretary says which goes to the fishermen is £180 altogether.

19038. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Therefore, apparently £1,520 is dead loss to the fishermen, and the way that will be met will be by allowing them credit for it on the new boats?—I do not know how the Board will do it.

19039. I want to get out what is the loss really borne by the fishermen?—Yes.

19040. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I think you may estimate the total loss at £1,800. The amount of the insurance is about £800. There is a balance of £1,000 not covered by the insurance. That £1,000 is entirely lost to the fishermen. The £300 insurance gave the £180 to the fishermen and £500 to the Congested Districts Board.

19041. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—So that the fishermen have lost £820. Yet I understand they are able to get boats and go fishing again?—The Board will give them new boats.

19042. On the same terms?—Yes. On the same terms.

19043. I find there are three of those boats paid up.

Feb. 15, 1907

Mr. A. T. Deane.

Feb. 15, 1907.

Mr. A. T.
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I see one had £60 at her credit, and another £35 at her credit—Two boats.

19044. Sir JAMES CONNELL.—With regard to these two boats which were paid up, they were not the property of the Congested Districts Board, but the property of the shareholders?—They were not formally handed over. They were registered in the name of the Congested Districts Board. They would have been handed over now had they not been wrecked, but being wrecked before the fishing was done they were not handed over. They would not have been handed over before the fishing was done and the accounts properly closed and settled.

19045. Therefore, the storm came at a time which relieved the fishermen of what would otherwise have been their own obligation in respect of the loss of the boats?—Well, I am speaking of these two boats.

19046. There are two boats which had completed their obligations to the Board, and were in a position to be transferred to the shareholders of the boats?—Yes.

19047. Had that transfer been made before the storm the loss would have been entirely on the fishermen?—Entirely, unless they had themselves chosen to insure the boats, which the Board were open to do for them in the same fund.

19048. Do the Board, when they transfer a boat to the shareholders who have completed their obligations to the Board, make any stipulation, on the completion of the obligations, about insuring the boat?—No, there is no stipulation or condition, but the Board always impress upon each crew the advisability of insuring.

19049. And what is the effect of that. Is your experience do they insure?—The effect up to this disaster was not very marked. The men thought they should be able to get better terms. They thought insuring for only two-thirds value of the boat was not very encouraging. They had heard from Scotch fishermen the terms on which boats were insured in Scotland. There are so many boats in Scotland, and these insurance companies and clubs have been at work for fifteen or twenty years in many cases, and have accumulated considerable funds and they are able to give better terms. No sooner did this disaster happen, however, than the most if not all the crews who owned their own boats, and had not them insured, at once insured with the Congested Districts Board.

19050. The Scotch system and the Scotch arrangements are cheaper than the Congested Districts Board's arrangements?—Well, the companies in Scotland have given more favourable terms, perhaps. They pay the fishermen for partial loss or damage as well as for total loss, and even with these companies it is not a case of insuring two-thirds only, but the full value of the boat—not the fishing gear, but the boat only.

19051. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Why did the Congested Districts Board act as an insurance company? Why not leave this business to insurance companies?—They did their very best to get insurance companies to take it up, and they only went in as insurers themselves because no one else would. They had to do that with everything else to give the scheme a start. It was unfortunate that this big disaster happened so soon after the scheme was formed, but the disaster showed the need there was for insurance, and the need there was to keep it up.

19052. I should have thought Lloyd's would have insured the men?—I do not think they would.

19053. Not the fishermen?—Not the fishing boats.

19054. Sir JAMES CONNELL.—As regards the Scotch offices that do insure fishing boats on such favourable terms, did the Congested Districts Board make any inquiry at such offices whether they would insure these boats?—Yes. Inquiry has been made before and since. There are one or two Irish boats, at least, that I know of that are insured in some of the Scotch offices. For instance, there was one boat a crew obtained and paid for cash down by themselves. It was built at Fraserburgh and the boat was insured in a Fraserburgh company before she was taken delivery of. To the best of my knowledge she remains insured there still.

19055. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But you have not answered the question. As a matter of fact, what answer have the Congested Districts Board got to their application to the Scotch offices to insure these boats?—Well, they answered that years ago. I do not know what answers may have been received up till Christmas last, when I made inquiries myself, but

years ago the usual answer was that they did not know about the coast of Ireland; that the boats were small and of low value than what they were in the habit of insuring, and that they did not care on that account to take up the insuring of them.

19056. But you do not know what has been done of late days?—I made inquiries myself of a company in Fraserburgh about insuring boats, and the reply that they gave me was that owing to the development of insurance Clubs among the fishermen and the development of steam drifters instead of sailing boats for the herring fishing, they were seriously thinking of winding up the company and allowing the insurance to go on by clubs as it was doing. Fishermen in various districts formed insurance clubs themselves. When the matter of 10,000 fishermen or 2,000 fishermen could be got together to take shares of £1 to £3 each, a sufficient fund was soon raised to go on with.

19057. The Fraserburgh office declined to insure the boats?—Yes. They said as far as they were concerned they did not think that the business would take. I asked them if they would reconsider the matter and write me, and they said they might do so, but I have not heard from them.

19058. The total fund, as I understand you, which the Board has available for paying for lost boats is £1,000?—Yes; but £400 of premiums have been paid to it since. This is the first call they have ever had. The half of this call has been paid in premiums. There would be £500 of the fund still standing.

19059. I see you say the best means to help on future development is for the Board to continue as they have been doing and that it is not wise to give too many boats in one season. Are there many applications for new boats?—A great many. At present we have about forty applications from the Donegal coast.

19060. Do these applications come from crews of six men or individuals?—Crews of six men.

19061. The men get together and ask for a boat?—They fill up the usual form and send it to the Board, and, of course, their application is considered by the Board. There are so many applications coming in to the Board that it is frequently a year or two before an application can be granted.

19062. Those men who make the applications go fishing in some other way in the interval?—Some of them do. Some of them will be fishing in yaws, and others, perhaps, might not be fishing. There are men who apply for boats who have not had any experience in fishing, but they apply with others who have had some experience. A crew, therefore, might consist of men who have had a little experience in fishing and others who have not as much.

19063. The object of my question was to learn if I could whether there is still a large population in Donegal who are anxious to go fishing but who have no boats in which to go?—There are a large number in Donegal yet who are anxious to go fishing in large boats. There are so many wanting to go fishing that it is not possible to get all the boats for them at the time they ask for them.

19064. What I want to get at now is whether there is a large fishing population or a large population on the Donegal coast who, if they could be supplied with boats, would take up fishing as an industry?—Well, on the whole Donegal coast I find men are very anxious to take up fishing as an industry; exceedingly anxious. If they have not large boats they fish in yaws, and until such time as they get large boats they continue fishing in yaws.

19065. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And is it not the fact that many small farmers living a considerable distance from the sea have made application to you for share boats?—That is so.

19066. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What sort of tonnage are those share boats?—They run about twenty tons, perhaps.

19067. They cannot face the open sea?—Oh, yes. They do face the open sea.

19068. Right out?—Yes. The Zulu boats they fish with at Donegal, I explained that these boats went out to the far off sea in summer, and the crew also fished from their fishers in the autumn. The idea in deciding on these boats was to have a boat suitable for both fishings—for the autumn and the summer fishings. The summer fishing is got out at sea, perhaps anywhere from ten to fifty miles off, and that can only be carried on by large boats. The autumn fishing is got inshore, and too large a boat would not

be very convenient to work far inland. This also of boat was hit upon to suit both fishings.

18066. Do you say a twenty to twenty-five ton boat can face big seas and compete with the Scotch boats when they come down?—Of course they are not so big as the Scotch boats, but in summer weather the sea is not very stormy, and there has been no difficulty in the crews engaged in the summer fishing. The fact is, they have fished fully as well as Downing's as the large-sized Scotch boats have. I do not mean the Scotch steamers, but the Scotch sailing boats.

18070. Do you agree with Mr. Green that there are five times as many days on which the Scotch boats can fish round the Scotch coast as there are days on which your Irish boats can fish at sea round the Irish coast?—You mean whether the sea is not so rough on the Scotch coast?

18071. Yes!—They are better sheltered on the Scotch coast. On the West of Ireland you are exposed without any shelter.

18072. But do you agree with Mr. Green that for every five days the Scotch boats can fish off the Scotch coast out in the open sea, only one day Irish boats can fish in the open sea off the Irish coast?—I would not care to say as to the exact number of days, but, speaking broadly, there are many days when the Scotch boats can fish off their own coast when the Irish boats cannot fish off their coast. I cannot state a definite number of days.

18073. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Mr. Green was speaking chiefly of the east coast of Scotland when he considered the Scotch coast very favourable in point of weather. Would you think that the circumstance of the west coast of Ireland being so exposed to storms is a reason for trying to provide on that coast harbours of refuge for fishing boats?—Certainly, and piers for shelter.

18074. Perhaps we will come to the piers later. I ask you whether there are two causes limiting the number of boats you can provide in answer to the applications made to you. First, does it not take a considerable period of time to procure boats for the crews?—It does.

18075. And is there not a matter of principle involved. You would not like to multiply the number of these boats on the coast beyond what is required for the steady development of the fishery?—Certainly there would be considerable risk entailed if one were to give too big a number of inexperienced crews boats in one season, and talk in hand the teaching of the new crews. It is not enough to give them boats and fishing gear. That only puts the means in their way, but unless they are taught and get some instructions as to handling and working the boats and fishing gear the work would not be carried out satisfactorily.

18076. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—All that I included in my question. What I meant was that with instruction of the crews, do you look forward to it being possible greatly to increase the number of men on the Donegal coast who would go fishing and make money out of it?—Certainly. I have not the least doubt myself that eventually it will come—in fact it has come pretty much already to be an industry in which the men will engage in preference to any other.

18077. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have refused many applications?—We have had to refuse a great many applications on account of want of funds and also, as you said, on account of the inadvisability of not giving inexperienced crews.

18078. Mr. SOUTHERLAND.—The mere giving of boats does not necessarily increase the fishing?—No, unless along with it—

18079. Would you apply the same principle with regard to piers?—Not altogether.

18080. How do you differentiate?—Certainly I would apply the same principle to piers so far as fishings are being carried on in the sense of accommodation at the piers, but it is rather a hard question to answer. Whether the fact of more piers being round the coast would suit something else as well as fishing. Take, for instance, piers in Donegal. Take Downing's Pier, or take Thelma Pier. There are two built some twenty or thirty years ago, and up to the time the Board started its work, I don't think there was much done at these piers.

18081. You know the bearing of this extension of the fishing upon the problem of relieving congestion, and the importance attached to fishing as a means of relieving congestion. The Chairman has just asked

you to what extent you would expect this industry to be developed. It has been expressed all round Ireland that the only thing necessary to develop fishing in Ireland is the provision of piers. Do you think that is being overdone?—Certainly the provision of piers is not overdone.

18082. The demand for piers, I mean?—The provision of piers has not been overdone on the West of Ireland. The demand for piers is a different thing. It may possibly be overdone.

18083. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You mentioned earlier in the evidence that there was a prospect of new herring fishing off the Kerry coast. If that turns out to be summer fishing is there any harbour of refuge sufficiently good on the Kerry coast for a fleet of boats to run to for safety?—There are natural inlets such as Kenmare, Dingle and Valentia that are very safe and commodious, and at Dingle there is a harbour and a pier, but there is not very much depth of water there.

18084. At the same time the Kerry coast has natural advantages. It is fairly well situated for the commencement of any such fishing as you refer to.—It is not so open and exposed as the Donegal coast, and some parts of Mayo and Galway, and if you look at the map you will see there are long bays such as Kenmare Bay and Bantry Bay that afford natural shelter. Although they have not piers, yet safety can be got by running into them. You cannot get that on an exposed coast like Donegal or Galway, or some parts of Mayo.

18085. You seem to strongly advocate shore boats for crews from a fishing population in preference to loan boats. Will you state the advantage of the shore boat system?—The advantage of the shore boat system is in dealing with beginners—with new crews—men who have had no previous experience of fishing can get a shore boat. They are placed in charge of an instructor, and they enter into such an agreement as the crew sign when they get the boat. A better system of practical training can be brought to bear upon the men than, I think, can be brought to bear upon the men who, say, have a loan boat. In the case of a loan boat usually one member of the crew has the boat, and he engages a crew to fish with him for the season. In a shore boat each man has a like interest.

18086. It is not a scratch crew?—No. It is a crew that has entered into an agreement, and each man realises that he must do his part, and any instructor given is usually taken full advantage of. Along with that the Board has a control over the crew, perhaps different from what they would have over the crew of a loan boat. The crew bind themselves to attend to the boat and fishing gear—mend nets, and keep the boat in order. If any man is found not acting up to these conditions, the Board can say to him, "You are not giving satisfaction; you are not fulfilling the terms of the agreement; unless you do we will have to dismiss you." If the man will not take the hint, but misbehaves, the Board can dismiss him. The Board get a better hold over the crew, and in addition to that, the shore boat system places the means of making good fishings more in the hands of the man than any other arrangement could, as the Board bind themselves to keep the boat with a full supply of fishing gear. There is no possible chance of the boat being sent to the fishing without having suitable nets or whatever gear is required.

18087. Financially, with poor populations, I suppose, there are advantages in the shore system. Poor people might find it difficult to get the necessary security for buying a boat on the loan system?—I do not see how many of them could get the security.

18088. Under the shore system until the boat is paid for it remains the property of the Board?—Yes.

18089. Then again the instalments under the shore system are paid exactly as the fish are caught?—As the money is earned.

18090. Under the loan system, on the other hand, for a boat the instalments are payable in a bad year as well as in a good year?—Yes, whether it is a bad or a good fishing.

18091. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You ensure your boats being well maintained under the shore system, whereas if a man gets his boat on the loan system he may not manage to keep it in good repair, and when it gets into bad repair he drops it, and goes away altogether?—That is so, and that has been a good deal the history in regard to loan boats. It was

Feb. 15, 1907.
Mr. A. T.
Dunlop.

Feb. 14, 1907.

Mr A. J.
Dunne.

found that when a lot of loan boats were given to Scotch codders that they were allowed to get into very bad ways and out of repair, and that was one of the reasons, I think, why the scheme did not succeed.

19091. Mr. BERNARD.—How do you say it did not succeed?—Well, under the scheme of giving loans to codders, they never repaid the loans. That did not speak well.

19092. The scheme is not closed yet?—They ceased to make the loans.

19093. Oh, yes, because we never approved of the loans. You make a difference between boats and nets and gear. Do you have to supply the nets and fishing gear as well?—Yes. The loans are fully supplied.

19094. On the share system?—Yes, on the share system.

19095. You run the boats yourselves?—Yes.

19096. The men are simply on wages then?—Oh, no. The men get full benefits, but the Board supplies them with fishing gear and with the necessary repairs and outlays upon the boats.

19097. You do not make sets on the coast?—No, the nets are mostly all made at Lisham. Messrs. William Harbour and Sons have for years made most of the sets that the Board have got on the Donegal coast.

19098. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But the crews mend the whole of the nets?—Yes. That is part of the work the instructors have done at Donegal. They teach the men how to mend and repair their nets.

19099. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have said the barrel industry has been developed on the Kerry coast?—Yes; shall I go on to that now?

19100. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Yes; with regard to the materials?—Most of the staves we get from Scotland, or rather from Sweden, but the barrel-makers in Kerry get the same materials from the Board as barrel-makers in Donegal. There are well-known barrel-making coopers in Kerry. There were a number of coopers there up to seven or eight years ago—coopers employed from time to time making firkins for salt butter; but when the trade in fresh butter from the counties was developed it took away their trade in making firkins. They applied to the Board—I think it must have been some time about 1890 and laid before the Board the fact that so many barrels were now required for curing mackerel, and that these were all being imported from England and Scotland, and that they were coopers and could make barrels, and they asked could the Board do anything towards assisting them and putting them in the way of making barrels. The Board made inquiries. They sent down some of their officials to Kerry and enquired into the matter, and they recommended to the Board that the best way to suit these men would be to take a lot of the coopers up to Donegal, to the coopers there, and give them the instructions in barrel-making. A number of the Kerry coopers very promptly responded, and they went to Donegal, where the Board gave them a couple of months' instruction. After that, with the previous knowledge they had of coopers, they got a good knowledge of barrel-making. When they got back to their homes and wanted to make barrels they found it very difficult to get materials, and they applied to the Board again and the Board sent them some staves to begin with by way of experiment.

19101. Where did they get them?—They got these staves from Sweden. They are mostly imported from Sweden to Scotland, and the Board sends these staves for these staves, and she brings them to Donegal or Kerry, or wherever they may be wanted. The Board gave a small supply of staves to these coopers to start barrel-making, and the result turned out quite satisfactory, so that last year instead of a matter of 30,000 or 40,000 feet of staves they gave them a supply, I think, of something like 425,000 feet of staves, to Dingle and places round it, sufficient to make 25,000 barrels. They gave these staves as a rule by way of loans. When these coopers get staves now it is usual for them to pay at the end of December, but in several cases they pay cash down.

19102. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Where is this coopership business in Kerry—what part of Kerry?—Dingle or, perhaps, the place where most barrels are made. In Cahirciveen, not far from Dingle, on the opposite side of the peninsula—no, not Cahirciveen, but Castle Gregory—and then Cahirciveen on the other side of the bay, or rather towards the Valenta Strait, a number of barrels are made, and also at Castletown-Berehaven and Bantry.

19103. Mr. BARNES.—These barrels are used in the mackerel fishing. I suppose, they sell them to the mackerel coopers?—Yes. Last year the autumn mackerel fishing was rather short, and there was not such a demand for barrels as there was a few years before. Perhaps the coopers would not have got rid of the whole of the barrels, but would have to keep some over for another year, but that is just one of the circumstances that go along with fishing.

19104. At what price do you supply them with staves?—At the figure they cost.

19105. That, I suppose, is cheaper than they could get them by buying over there for themselves?—They could not very well get suitable staves in the country, or buy them so cheaply as the Board could, and they could not, I suppose, get the same class of materials so readily.

19106. Do you charge freight?—Yes, on the *Grosvenor* from the coast of Scotland to the coast of Kerry or Donegal.

19107. Calculated upon the cost of that particular voyage?—Yes.

19108. And, allowing for maintenance and so on, you divide it up into a monthly charge?—We charge so much per thousand feet.

19109. How do you calculate it?—We usually charge them the same freight. I think the freight by the *Grosvenor* from the east coast of Scotland and going round to the West of Ireland and the district round by Kerry and Galway, and, perhaps, Cork, would work out at about £100.

19110. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How many feet of staves would that mean?—From 180,000 to 200,000, and the steamer might be three or four weeks out for it. Of course, it is not a freight that would pay the steamer.

19111. That is what we are so anxious to get at. It is not the freight that would pay the steamer?—No, it would not pay, but it is considered as such as could reasonably be charged to the coopers that is added to the cost of the staves.

19112. Mr. BARNES.—I understand. Still that is not the proper business-like way of doing it. It means you are giving the coopers staves cheaper than they could get them in any other way. You are adding, to use an Indian expression, as their father and their mother in giving them these staves cheaper than they otherwise could get them?—Not altogether; they are charged a fair price.

19113. You mean that there is a less charge than what would cover the expenses of the steamer?—I think it is well to make a fair, moderate charge—not full freight, as if they were shipping beakers. Wanting to make the last penny out of it is not the way to encourage an industry.

19114. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is an explanation, not a defence—I think it is a fair and reasonable amount to charge. The Board allow some freight upon all material and staves that they bring to their coopers.

19115. Now about the boat-making at Killybegs Industrial School. What sort of boat-building goes on there?—We have had a lot of the biggest boats we have had built, built at Killybegs. Just now there are three orders at Killybegs Industrial School. One was completed and launched sometime ago, and another when I was there about ten weeks ago was about finished, and will be launched about now, and they are beginning another one, which will be finished in time for the May fishing. These boats are of the largest size, and altogether, up to now, I think they have built about some sixteen or seventeen of those boats for the Board at Killybegs. In addition to the Zulu boats they have built a few "Nobbies" for the Galway coast, four or five, at six rods, four, and a number of yaws—I could not give the exact number, but they have built more of them than of the largest boats, and the work goes on very busily still.

19116. Just explain what the Killybegs Industrial School is?—It is a school where boys are taken in and educated and trained.

19117. Do they build those boats?—It is one of the industries that goes on in connection with it.

19118. Mr. BARNES.—It is a Catholic school?—It is.

19119. Maintained by the Roman Catholics?—Partly, I suppose.

19120. Is there a Government Grant?—Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—A Treasury grant.

Mr. BRYCE.—But the main part is furnished by the Catholics.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The building was put up by a Catholic bequest, but the maintenance is provided for partly through a Treasury grant and partly through a county charge.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is a Technical School?

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It is an Industrial School, but worked with a fishing side to it. The idea is to run it as far as possible for the fishing, but the boys are too small and young and slight to build to be put to the work of boat-building until they are about to leave the institution. Then some of them are taken on as apprentices, and other apprentices are taken from the neighbourhood. They serve their time, and the Congested Districts Board meets portion of the expenditure, and at present in that yard, besides some apprentices, there are five journey-men boat builders employed and paid their wages, who a couple of years ago were serving as apprentices.

19120. Mr. BRYCE.—Considering the expenditure, the contribution the Board gives to the funds and the price charged, are these boats built at Killybegs dearer or cheaper than those you could get out of Scotland?—The boats cost the same to the Board, or rather the Board pays the same price to the Killybegs School as they pay in Scotland. Of course, whatever grant the Board may make is outside that altogether, but they never have been charged anything more for boat-building at Killybegs than for boat-building in Scotland.

19121. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You count the freight against Scotland, that is, the expense of bringing a boat to the Irish coast?—Yes, but adding that, the Scotch boats as a rule cost more.

19122. Sir JOHN COCKRENE.—What?—The added freight makes it cost more than the boat delivered from Killybegs.

19123. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Otherwise they cost the same?—Otherwise they cost the same. The Killybegs School is always ready to build boats for the Board at the same rates as they get them from Scotland.

19124. Mr. BRYCE.—Of course they can only build a certain number, and you have to buy boats at other places such as Arklow and so on?—Yes, we got one built at Arklow last May—a Killy boat.

19125. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have other stations for boat-building?—Yes; there was one at Killyman, on the island of Aran.

19126. Mr. BRYCE.—Which is now closed?—Yes; the manager died suddenly a couple of years ago, and since then I think only a couple of boats have been built at Killyman, but it is very difficult to get the materials taken there. Everything has to be taken there from the mainland; there is not even a blacksmith on the island to do a little blacksmith work, and everything has to be taken there from Galway or wherever it is brought from to Killyman.

19127. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That makes it very expensive?—Yes, that makes it very expensive, and the boats built there have not been so cheaply built as they would have been in Killybegs.

19128. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you not got some building stations at Baltimore and Fernish Island in Conamara?—Yes, at Baltimore and at Fernish Island; the boats built at Baltimore have been made of the "Nobbs" class. Some yachts have been built on the Conamara coast.

19129. Mr. BRYCE.—I was not here when you were talking about Conamara this morning. I would like to ask you, as I asked Mr. Green yesterday, whether, after the large expense you have had them for the last few years, if you think anything ever will be made of the Conamara fishing?—Yes, with continued effort on the Board's part, and getting the men thoroughly interested in fishing, I have no doubt that something will be made of them eventually. It is a severe job to look forward to undoubtedly, but none the less it is work that the Board, I think, ought to pay great attention to, and ought to give every attention to.

19130. It is rather neglected so far?—Well, perhaps it is, and perhaps it is partly owing to the men themselves, but I think personally, giving my own opinion, now, that if a continued and thorough effort were made to try and do something among the men down there it might be successful. It would require close supervision, I am certain, for years. It would be a work of years to do it.

19131. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Twenty?—But unless that was done there would not be much hope for it. The men are so backward that their poverty and condition should be borne in mind, and the Board should be prepared to bear disappointments.

19132. Mr. BRYCE.—They are not only poor in body but they are poor in spirit also—I don't mean in the Scriptural sense, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." I mean they are dispirited people—they are disappointed people; they are totally unlike the Donegal people, and not only unlike the Donegal people indeed, but unlike the people of everywhere else—I would not make any comparison between them and the Donegal people. I simply say some special attention should be given to them.

19133. I am not blaming them; I think the circumstances of their lives are such that it would be extraordinary if they were otherwise, and it is the most difficult problem of the whole, and, therefore, it is all the more important that something should be done?—I quite agree with you. The Conamara coast and the North Mayo coast are the two most desolate spots I know in the West of Ireland for something to be done towards developing their industries. I cannot see, unless the fishing be opened up and developed, any other industry possible, and certainly the land, especially in Conamara, won't admit of any hope of relief coming from there. And it is the same thing in North Mayo; the land is miserably poor throughout all the district, and I think it needs that a firm effort of some sort should be made to help to improve them.

19134. Quite so. I just wanted to hear that from you—to hear your opinion. And you think that if sufficient effort is put forward it might be successful?—I think so.

19135. Sir JOHN COCKRENE.—In time?—Yes, and it will have to be continued. It won't do to make an effort for a year and then go away. It will have to be a continued effort. The work will have to be persisted in and carried on.

19136. Mr. BRYCE.—You would therefore have to have teachers set down there always?—Yes, always there, at any rate during the fishing season, and even when the fishing season is over, looking after the men teaching them to mend their nets, to look after the boats, and providing them with proper instruction.

19137. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you many men such as the Fishery Officers in Scotland?—No; practical fishermen are what are wanted. Fishery officers, like those in Scotland, would be no use. Practical fishermen who would take those people and teach them practical fishing is what is required.

19138. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—If you had these conditions fulfilled, is it your opinion that you would succeed?—I think I would.

19139. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would it take twenty years?—I would not care to give a number of years, but you may depend it is not in the first generation you will get the best results.

19140. Mr. BRYCE.—You see nothing in the people to prevent them assimilating this instruction?—Nothing in the least, if the instruction is given in a proper way. If this is done there is hope.

19141. Sir JOHN COCKRENE.—Your point of view is that something might be done in Conamara by persistent effort over a long series of years?—Yes.

19142. Don't you consider that the way to commence that would be rather to deal with the youth than with the adults?—Yes.

19143. Do you consider, in approaching a policy like that, and carrying it out, that a beginning might be made by apprenticing some of the youths of Conamara and such places, to boat owners and those employed in the fishing industry in Donegal?—I don't think so. Really, if you want to make fishermen of people you just have to take them fishing. A youth of fifteen years would never apprentice himself. I doubt whether an Irish youth would ever apprentice himself to fishing. If you got youths of from eighteen to twenty they might go.

19144. Take youths of eighteen to twenty?—Well, those could be taken in as members of the crews of boats, and placed under the control of practical fishermen. You refer to Donegal?—

19145. Pardon me. You consider it would be better to take youths of between eighteen and twenty, or whatever age you choose, and deal with them locally

Feb. 15, 1907
Mr. A. T.
Dillon

Feb. 15, 1902
 Sir A. T.
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with an instructor then to apprentice them to Scotch or Irish boats to enable them to learn their business?—Oh, certainly, deal with them locally with an instructor.

19145. Now tell me why?—Well, for one thing they would be at home, and they would take an interest in the work at home in a way that they might not take it if they were from home. And another thing, I don't think they would go from home. It was one of the conditions when these hired boats were given to Donegal that an age limit was placed upon the members of the crews. I don't say it was strictly adhered to. The Board very wisely, I think, said, "We will take on members of the crews from twenty to thirty years of age, but no one over thirty." As a rule the whole of these Donegal shore boat crews have been young men of from eighteen to thirty.

19147. Pardon me, that is not my question?—The same would apply to Connemara.

19148. Your answer to my question was two-fold. One was that these young men would not go away, young men otherwise fit for being with fishing boats, would not go away from Connemara to learn?—I say perhaps there is doubt about their going to the north of Donegal to learn. It would be leaving their homes, and there is a feeling, perhaps, that they would rather do something at home. I don't say that at home they could not learn and by and by when they had learned the fishing business, move round the coast to other places.

19149. Do you think that the influence of their homes and the influence surrounding the homes and the conditions prevailing in the district are the best 'n which to develop the enterprising spirit essential for fishing?—I don't say that they are; but they are at home, and you always find these people have an affection for their home that they have not for any other place. No matter how poor it is, it is their home.

19150. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where in Connemara are you to find ships in which the youths are to learn to fish in the deep sea. It is proposed that they should go up to Donegal, where there are ships to give them an apprenticeship, and to enable them to be sent out to sea. As long as they are on shore I don't see how any practical instruction is to help them?—Well, I don't see the way to give practical instruction would be to send boats to Connemara to them.

19151. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—To send instruction boats?—Yes.

19152. Sir JOHN COLLINS.—You think that these men, living in a wretched condition, would not even go to the next county to learn their business?—It is hardly that. They would have the idea of working the fishing at home.

19153. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—These men would not desire to go elsewhere to learn fishing; you would have to educate them gradually?—Yes; you would have to educate them gradually.

19154. Sir JOHN COLLINS.—You must have your policy on the dislike to leave the wretched conditions under which they now exist—that is your point?—My opinion is that in order to do something to relieve the condition in which they at present exist, that a determined and firm effort should be made to try and induce them to take up fishing, and that if it were made the men would do it.

19155. That is not an answer to my question. I put it to you again that the policy of expenditure and effort must be based upon the existence of the utter dislike of these people to leaving these wretched conditions even to go to another county in Ireland?—That is so.

19156. That the State's policy and expenditure is to be regulated by that fact?—Well, if good is to be done to them, the conditions in which they exist must be taken into consideration.

19157. You mentioned in your memorandum, that "On Clare Island a successful fishing could be developed were the islanders to take it up. During the autumn of 1905 a considerable fishing of very fine herrings was caught there, and the Board's representative cured the most of them, 'giving them from the fishermen, as there was no other means of selling the herrings.' Why could not the industry be gone on with—where fault was it?—Well, the herrings came near to the shore, and the men were able to fish with yaws and nets, and perhaps by day, and after night, or perhaps if bad weather came, and

the herrings disappeared, they could not be fished for away from the shore.

19158. Let me read your words, "At Clare Island a successful fishing could be developed were the islanders to take it up."—Well, the islanders have not taken it up. That is what I want to bring out. Although they have taken herrings near the shore they have not followed up herring fishing, nor any other fishing.

19159. What efforts have the Board made to induce them to do this?—I want to know what efforts the Board made?—The Board have a station there, and have also placed a supply of barrels and salt upon the island. They have these materials always on the island, and they have such provision made as is a warrant or guarantee that when herrings or mackerel are caught there is the means of taking them in hand. The herring fishing at Clare Island has been carried on for a number of years, and some seven or eight years back a firm from Cork had a curing station there.

19160. Pardon me. I must interrupt. You say that the fishing could be developed were the islanders to take it up. Why don't they take it up?—There is perhaps an unwillingness on their part to take it up. I could not just give their reasons, but evidently they have not taken up the fishing.

19161. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—One question on that. Is it a fact that the fishing at Clare Island has failed because, although the Board has made efforts to encourage it, the people have not the gift for it and won't take it up?—I would not say that. I would not say it failed.

19162. Mr. BRYCE.—There is no harbour there for large boats?—No.

19163. They could not follow the fish out for any distance?—No.

19164. They could only fish in these yaws?—Yes.

19165. Therefore, it would not be fair to say an effort had been made unless there was a harbour and large boats by which they could follow the herrings immediately they left the coast?—Yes, and as I have said in connection with the development of fishing in other parts, they would require a course of instruction.

19166. Fishing over there is not of the same importance it is in Donegal?—No.

19167. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it not also the case that in Clare Island the land is comparatively good agricultural land, and that there is not the same inducement to go to the sea as if the land was bad as in Connemara?—Yes. I was going to say that. The men on Clare Island appear to be fairly comfortable, and devote a good deal of time to their land, and have not the same interest in fishing that the people have in Donegal and other places.

19168. It is worth remembering that there is the widest difference agriculturally between Clare Island, say, and Achill. Clare Island is clay soil resting largely on limestone. Achill is bog soil, resting on granite. In a place like Clare Island there would need to be a considerable inducement, such as the harbour mentioned by Mr. Bryce, to make the men willing to take to fishing. Do you agree that at present the soil is the attraction before the people in the Island of Clare?—I am not so conversant with the nature of the soil either there or at Achill, but, certainly, they do seem to be very much tied to the soil on Clare Island.

19169. Would you say that of all these islands the sea is exceedingly stormy and that it is very difficult to prosecute fishing regularly with the harbour accommodations which they have got?—It would only be in favourable weather that they could carry on fishing. In any sort of rough weather it is quite impossible to fish from these islands.

19170. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It is also extremely difficult to make harbours there?—At Clare Island it might not be thought very good policy certainly to build a very expensive harbour, and I don't know that the population of the island would warrant giving a big outlay, although some little improvement could all the same be made easily upon the harbours or upon the pier.

19171. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There was one general question that it occurs to me you should be asked. What is your opinion as to the prospects of any notable development beyond what we have now of the fisheries in Irish sea waters?—There is every prospect of a considerable development. There is no saying

what the fishing might eventually develop into. There is the whole Atlantic before us, and it would be hard for anyone to say what results fishing would bring about in the future. But I have every hope myself of a considerable development being made in future in the fish fisheries. As the men take them up year by year they will naturally themselves find ways and means of developing the fishing. That is always the result of progress in fishing, that men take it up as an occupation and develop it in a way that no other means could bring about.

19172. Sir JOHN GORMAN.—As I understand, you wish to impress on us that there is no limit which can really be put to the possible development of the fisheries on the west coast of Ireland—so that so?—That is so. I would specially emphasize that. I don't think that anyone could put a limit on to the possible development of the fisheries on the west coast of Ireland.

19173. Do you expect that that will be due entirely to the development of the maritime population of Ireland?—In part it will. They will help along with others.

19174. And as it develops the competing fishing fleets from all parts of the Kingdom, and other parts of the world—various European ports—will come to participate in that development?—I have no doubt they will.

19175. And they are in a better position to take advantage of the development as it occurs than the west coast Irish population in spite of all the efforts of the Congested Districts Board or other Boards?—It is not that so?—The efforts that the Congested Districts Board made have opened up all these possibilities, and it is just a natural result that one would look for, and when the people take up the development of the fishing themselves they will go ahead faster than the Board would be able to do, for unless the individual effort is put into it it does not matter what a Board might do, if the people don't do it themselves and it is by their action that the great impetus to the development of fishing would come when the people take up the work of development on new lines themselves.

19176. And the development must necessarily be a slow process?—It must necessarily be a slow process.

19177. You cannot quicken it artificially beyond putting facilities in the way of the population to learn the business?—I don't think you can.

19178. Therefore, the development of fishing off the west coast of Ireland cannot be looked on as offering any prospect of immediate relief for a considerable amount of the congestion that exists? No matter what you do, the process of development of the fishing population on the west coast of Ireland must be a slow one—do you agree with that?—Certainly.

19179. That being so, the relief of congestion on the coast fringe of the West of Ireland by the development of fishing is not a thing that will produce anything like an immediate result?—No very striking immediate results, but at the same time where fishing succeeds the results are immediate. Take Donegal, for instance. The results have been very conspicuous there, and the benefits have come with the success of the fishing. Of course, all the same that will mean that a series of years must pass before the industry can be said to have attained the range that would be expected for it; and so it would be in the development of any fishing where fishing has not been previously developed. You must take time.

19180. Do those remarks refer to the most promising parts of Donegal?—I refer to the whole coast of Donegal, and then round about the Aran Islands, Cleggan, and the places where mackerel fishing has been opened up and developed.

19181. But they do not refer to North Mayo or to Connemara?—They do not.

19182. Mr. BERN.—Is there any sign in Donegal at the fishing industry being established so thoroughly on its feet as to do without any grandmotherly help at all?—You can hardly say it gets any grandmotherly help now other than that loans are given for boats and fishing gear.

19183. There are instructors still?—Yes, but the crews pay in great part for the instructors themselves.

19184. You think Donegal is getting to the stage when it will be able to stand by itself?—It soon will be.

19185. The Board might cease to spend money on it then?—I don't say they should cease to spend money on it. They should continue to give the grandmotherly attention for some years.

19186. But the Board might cease to spend so much in Donegal and spend more in other places?—They are spending less in Donegal now than perhaps they are spending anywhere. The only spending is the giving of boats and of instruction, but the amount spent on instruction is not so large during the last few years. There are more than half of these boats that have no instructors. The crews work them themselves. There are always new crews coming on who require instructors, and it would be a mistake, I think, to cut that short in any way, as it would in part undo the work the Board has already done.

19187. Take the case of the British fisheries. There they are independent of instructors. When a vacancy occurs in a shore boat some young fellow is taken in and he is instructed by the other men in the boat. Would not you suppose that eventually that would become the case in Donegal, when the fishing is fully established?—Yes. There would not be instruction at all required. The one would learn from the other.

19188. I was trying to get from you some idea as to the time when the industry would be established so thoroughly that the Board might cease altogether to interfere?—Really I would not care to put a date on it, but certainly we have not reached that stage yet.

19189. But it is looking that way?—It is looking that way, and no doubt eventually will come to that.

19190. As I understand, Roundstone was at one time very nearly as bad as Gormanna. Within the last few years it has become a prosperous place owing to the development of fishing by the very same kind of people who are now in Gormanna in a miserable state. Roundstone is only a few miles to the west of Gormanna, and anybody can see that it is a comparatively prosperous place. If you go from Roundstone to Gormanna you see an enormous difference in the material comfort of the people; yet they seem to have been the same kind of people in the two places some time ago. Would not that give you a hope that with a sustained effort at Gormanna and Connello and places farther to the east you might achieve the same result as has been obtained at Roundstone?—I have every hope that good results would be got.

19191. If you get fishermen in that very bad district near Gormanna would you be interfering with the turf business? Are the people you would be trying to attract those who work the turf boats?—There would be plenty of people left to do both the turf business and the fishing. For a long time, in my opinion, the people would not all take to fishing, and there would be plenty left to do the turf business so long as the trade lasted. Old men would attend to the turf boats and young men would take up the fishing. I have no doubt. Of course, what the result would be would have to be seen.

The Commission adjourned.

FORTIETH PUBLIC SITTING.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK A.M.,

At Winchester House, St. James's Square, London, S.W.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANKAN BRICE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; and ARTHUR SUTHERLAND, Esq.

Mr W. J. D. WALLER examined.

Feb. 14, 1907. 19192. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—I suppose like other witnesses you would prefer our taking you on your memorandum,* and letting you read it paragraph by paragraph, and at the end of each paragraph the Commissioners can put any questions that they desire. Will that be agreeable to you?—Yes. The first paragraph relates to my appointment as Inspector and Adviser to the Congested Districts Board in Industrial matters, which took place in February, 1897. Having been all my life a manufacturer, in February, 1898, I gave up a business partnership to devote my time to organizing Technical and Industrial Classes for the Congested Districts Board. Previous to 1897, from time to time I reported on various Industrial projects. Amongst these were reports on Foxford Woollen Mills, various schemes for improving Donegal Homespuns, such as the introduction of improved looms; schemes of weaving instruction, and the grading and measuring of homespuns at Carrick and Adams, County Donegal.

19193. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You say you were a manufacturer. Were you engaged as a cloth manufacturer?—I was engaged in the manufacture of linen. The first subject that I deal with is the Board's system of industrial classes. The procedure of the Board with regard to Technical and Industrial classes has been to rent a classroom in some suitable district with the object of giving instruction. In many districts no suitable room can be secured, and in such cases the difficulty is generally overcome by repairing some old building, which often involves throwing two rooms into one, and such alterations and repairs as putting down a floor, the provision of a new roof with skylight, and putting in new windows and doors. In some few cases where no suitable building was obtainable, the Board have built classrooms for the purposes of instruction. At Letterkenny, Conella, Carronee and Pullahomast, school-rooms were put up. These schoolrooms in the absence of any other place are very valuable. In connection with that I may mention that they have a dividing influence on the girls, when you bring them into some place that is properly cleaned up and whitewashed. The Board pay the salary of the teachers, provide furniture, and defray the cost of rent, gas, and light. The teacher gives instruction and sends of the work. All the work done at the Board's classes is piecework. Under no circumstances does the Board purchase any of the work. Orders are sent to the teachers from the Irish Lace Depot or other wholesale houses, such as the Hibernian Lace Company, and wholesale Belfast firms, all of which pay prompt cash for the work. It has been found that the supply of superior qualities of lace has tended to produce an increased demand. Ten years since there was neither the demand for, nor the supply of lace which exists at present. The turnover of the Irish Lace Depot, for instance, has increased from about £5,000 per year, ten years since, to some £28,000 last year, and besides the Lace Depot there are now a considerable number of wholesale purchasers who do a large trade. For a number of years the Irish Lace Depot, started by Lady Aberdeen, took the bulk of the work produced. The Board's classes, however, take

orders from any wholesale buyers, the only instructions to teachers being this, that the patterns of one firm are not to be sold to another. In practice it generally follows that the bulk of the produce of any one class goes to one firm, which usually keeps the class constantly employed. With regard to the Irish Lace Depot I think I should explain to the Commission that Lady Aberdeen, and later on the directors, undertook a large financial responsibility. The Irish Lace Depot was formerly a shop in Dublin which did a small lace business of about £4,000 or £5,000 a year. Lady Aberdeen took over the business of the Lace Depot and became financially responsible for £5,000.

19194. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How many years ago?—I should say it was about fourteen years ago. Lady Aberdeen was financially responsible for £5,000. Then a limited liability company was formed under a special arrangement by which the directors could receive no remuneration for their services, and the entire profits of the Lace Depot went to pay workers and extend the business. The result is that the business which ten years ago had a turnover of £6,000 last year had a turnover of over £28,000. The nominal capital of the Irish Lace Depot for registration purposes was seven shares of £1 each. The directors of the Lace Depot are gentlemen who give their time and services without remuneration, and the entire profits have been employed in extending the business and increasing the turnover.

19195. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Who are the gentlemen who give their services for nothing; are they shopmen?—Not at all.

19196. What services do they render?—They go there once a fortnight as directors and act upon the board the same as the directors of any other limited liability company.

19197. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—They are directors receiving no remuneration, but giving their services voluntarily?—Yes. Of course if the place were sold up it is worth a very large amount of money, because the accumulated profits have gone towards increasing the business, but the initiator of all this was Lady Aberdeen, who was very much interested indeed in the industry and is a member of the organization still. They had their meeting last Wednesday. Her Excellency was in the chair and has taken the greatest interest in it for a great number of years. The Irish lace business now runs into about £100,000 a year. It is not confined to the Lace Depot. The Lace Depot accounts for some £25,000, but other firms have started, so that there is now a large business being done, which runs into £100,000 a year, which is paid for lace to workers all over Ireland.

19198. What is the business of the concern? Is it simply buying and selling lace? Give us an outline of what they do?—They do a large wholesale trade in lace. A great number of the Board's classes—not all of them—and a number of other classes all over Ireland, and isolated workers all over the country, send their goods by parcel post to the Irish Lace Depot. The Irish Lace Depot finds a market for lace in Paris, New York, Vienna, all over the Continent, and in America. They pay these workers a wholesale price. They pay prompt cash. A class, for instance, in

* See page 176.

Belmullet or a remote part of the West sends a parcel of lace to the Lace Depot, and within forty-eight hours a cheque is sent for the work.

19199. You say the Lace Depot is part of the business. What other business does the company do, because it is nominally a company?—The only business the Irish Lace Depot does is to receive lace made all over Ireland, and send that lace out to wholesale firms in every part of the world for sale.

19200. Is the whole business of this company—because it is a company technically—confined to lace?—Absolutely to lace—that is, crochet, Limerick, guipure, applique, and point.

19201. Mr. BARRY.—Other firms have gone into the same business, and while the Lace Depot has a turn-over of £25,000 in the year other firms have a turn-over of £25,000?—There is a turn-over of quite £100,000 per year in lace if the workers all over Ireland are taken into account.

19202. So there would be £55,000 turn-over by business outside the Lace Depot?—I expect there would be quite that all over Ireland.

19203. You mentioned that the property of this Lace Depot would be valuable if it were sold up. I suppose you mean its goodwill, because it has no property outside its goodwill?—It has got capital accumulated to carry on the business of £25,000 a year. Its capital consists of the profits that have accumulated, and that can only be used according to the articles of association in developing the lace industry in Ireland.

19204. In what way are they used in developing the lace industry?—In ten years the development has raised the turn-over from £5,000 to £25,000. Every penny of profit made by the Lace Depot has in consequence of this large development been required to carry on the business.

19205. In what form?—The profits remain in the business as capital.

19206. Mr. KATAXIAN.—They don't pay the Board of Directors?—No, except five per cent. on the small nominal capital.

19207. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—It has got a secretary. I suppose?—Yes—a paid managing director and secretary.

19208. Does it publish an annual account?—There is an annual meeting of shareholders, and the accounts are audited by one of the best public auditors in Dublin every month.

19209. Those accounts are annual accounts?—Yes.

19210. Are they printed?—I cannot say that they are printed. They may be submitted to the Registrar however. Of course there is a different clause in the Limited Liability Companies Acts for industrial and provident associations like this from what there is in the case of an ordinary limited liability company.

19211. Presumably the Commissioners would have no difficulty in getting from the secretary the annual accounts showing the growth and distribution of expenditure and income?—If you wish to see copies of the accounts for ten years you can possibly have them on application.

19212. Perhaps you will kindly hand those in later?—I shall apply for them.

19213. Mr. BARRY.—This accumulated capital is employed in holding the stock from the time the cash is paid for it until it is realised?—Quite so.

19214. That is the way it is employed?—Yes. No matter how quickly you work the lace business, sending lace away to Paris, New York, and distant places, you cannot turn over your stock more than about four times in the year, and it would be very good to do that.

Mr. BARRY.—Quite so. I understand.

19215. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—When you talk about capital do you mean realised capital in cash, or capital partly in cash and partly in goods?—The capital, of course, is always in the form of goods, but what I refer to is this. Suppose you sold the business to-morrow, and absolutely apart from the goodwill, and realised your stock-in-trade, there is a large amount of capital accumulated which has been made on the sale of lace which can only be utilised according to the articles of association in developing the lace industry in Ireland.

19216. Is there a periodic stock-taking?—Yes, a most elaborate stock-taking.

19217. That would appear in the annual accounts?—Yes.

19218. How many classes have been established by the Board?—There were at the close of last year fifty-three classes established by the Board in various parts

of the congested districts engaged in the production of lace and embroidery, from which the total earnings paid to workers amounted to £21,580 during the year. The lace produced were crochet, guipure, applique, Limerick, needle-point, and remembrance lace. The latter is sold under the name of Commemorative.

19219. Mr. STEWART.—Is this connected with the Lace Depot in any way?—A good part of the production goes to the Lace Depot.

19220. Do the Lace Depot do anything in the way of setting up any such places as this?—The Lace Depot take the production, and the Lace Depot and other organisations very often train teachers. It is difficult to get properly-qualified and trained teachers. Numbers of the teachers who are in the service of the Congested Districts Board have gone for some times six weeks or two months' instruction to the Lace Depot.

19221. The Lace Depot is purely commercial?—Yes. On the other hand the Lace Depot spend a good deal of money in training teachers, improving the designs, and doing everything possible to make the lace marketable.

19222. These teachers are available for the classes in the country?—Quite so.

19223. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Does not the amount of profit made by the Depot take from the remuneration paid to those who make the lace?—The Lace Depot simply gives the same price as would be given by any other wholesale firm. It is commercial, and it is not proposed at all in connection with the Lace Depot to give the workers every halfpenny of the money received for the lace; but the Lace Depot gives them such a price as would be given by any wholesale firm in the trade. In that way the accumulated profits go to extend the business.

19224. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—Do I understand you to say that you pay the teachers of the lace workers?—The Board pays the teachers.

19225. ALTHORP.—Yes.

19226. The Irish Lace Depot does not pay anything in the way of salaries for teachers or instructors?—No.

19227. Mr. BARRY.—Except instruction at the Lace Depot?—Except when teachers go for a course of instruction there, and to see a variety of work.

19228. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—In this paragraph just read, you say that the earnings paid to the workers amount to £21,580. Can you give the Commission, even approximately, the number of workers among whom this £21,580 was distributed; if you cannot do it now perhaps you could give it to us later?—I think it would be, roughly speaking, about 2,000. Multiply fifty-three classes by forty. That would get it approximately. A great number of those are learners.

19229. You estimate the number of workers, as approximately about 2,000?—Yes.

19230. Mr. KATAXIAN.—They are all sewing?—They simply get wages for work done. When a learner begins on a piece of lace it is worth very little. In fact, the very first efforts should be learned. But they are generally marketable somewhere at a low price. The learner gets nothing at all from either the Lace Depot, any other wholesale buyer, or the Congested Districts Board when she starts work but its market value.

19231. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How much per week is a diligent and skilful worker able to make at this employment?—I would say the average worker, if she keeps at it, would be able to earn from 8s. to 10s. a week, or from 7s. 6d. to 10s. Many of them earn 12s. a week, but in all home industries it should be recollected that a large amount of their time is otherwise occupied at different seasons of the year. They would be cutting turf, getting in hay, putting in potatoes, or digging potatoes.

19232. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—How many hours work is the day worth 10s. a week wages represent?—It depends entirely on themselves. Some girls will get up early and work late. Other girls will come to a class at ten and leave at three o'clock, and do very little more work. It depends on themselves.

19233. Mr. STEWART.—What would be the average?—The average would be from 7s. 6d. to 10s. a week if they work at it. They come to the class from ten to four, but they are supposed to do some home work; and there are many girls who, when interested, don't come to the class at all, except to get money sent to get thread.

19234. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How many hours work would you require for a remuneration of from

Feb 16, 1907.

Mr. W. J. D. Walker.

Feb. 18, 1902.

Mr. W. J. D.
Walker.

7s. 6d. to 10s. 1.—I think it would be about ordinary factory hours.

19234. Mr. BYRLE.—It will vary immensely according to the aptitude of the girl.—It will vary entirely according to her industry and aptitude.

19235. One girl who is equally industrious won't do so much work in a given time as a girl who is cleverer.—There are some girls to whom you could not teach lace work. Other girls become experts with practice. It is the young workers, who live in a family in which lace making has been going on, who get such work into their fingers and brains who make expert workers, and earn high wages. A girl starting at seventeen years of age often works so slowly that she won't come to earn fair wages. The work of teaching is rendered more difficult owing to a great number of the girls not having been taught sewing. When you go down to a district like South-west Galway to teach workers lace-making there is no hereditary instinct or feeling for the industry. They have never seen anything of the sort. It is the second generation of workers who will make experts.

19236. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—So heredity counts!—It is said that three generations to make a Lancashire cotton-spinner.

19237. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Can you give any information as to the average number of hours of labour of the operatives in this particular class of work in other countries—in Scotland or England, or wherever lace-making is carried on?—An extensive lace industry is carried on in Belgium.

19238. Can you give us any information as to the average number of hours spent by the workers in the Belgian industry?—I think that the condition of the lace industry in Belgium is very much the same as it is in Ireland; because you are working there with a peasant proprietary and an agricultural community, I would say that the girls in the West of Ireland don't work as long as they do in Belgium.

19239. Can you compare not only the hours worked but the remuneration—could you give us any light upon that?—My impression is that the remuneration in Belgium is less.

19240. And the hours are longer?—Yes.

19241. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How do they compare with Nottingham?—The Nottingham lace is machine-made lace, where the factory worker goes into a factory and works a machine. You cannot compare the home industry of hand-made lace with machine-made lace.

19242. But they do work the bolton silk in Nottingham?—There is bobbin-made lace in Buckinghamshire, but it is a very small industry.

19243. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Am I right in having the impression that the remuneration for lace-making is not altogether commensurate with the experience required—that is to say, that a very expert lace-maker does not get a remuneration commensurate with the degree of skill exhibited?—I could not say that; because the amount of wages that a worker earns on a piece-work scale depends entirely on the number of hours she works and her skill and quickness; so that her earnings are in proportion to the output.

19244. In no case, I understood you to say, could the most expert lace-maker earn more than 12s. a week?—About that; but that is very fair wages for a home industry. I have known a girl who earned £20 in twenty-six consecutive weeks, but that was when trade happened to be extremely good, and the girl was a very exceptional worker. Perhaps I should show a map that will enable you to see the distribution of these classes. (Professor maps.) The portion coloured blue is the congested area. Each red spot represents the location of a lace or embroidery class under the Board. Some of these classes have been closed because they did not succeed. That happened in the case of a few of them; but the great majority of these are in operation.

19245. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are they mostly in Donegal?—There are very many in Donegal.

19246. Mr. BERRY.—There is a point there where they are very thick (indicates on map).—That is round Lough Mask district—Derry, Derry, Tormakaddy, Partry, and that district.

19247. They are closer there together than anywhere else?—That is a poor district, along the shores of Lough Mask. One of the earliest classes started by the Board was at Derry, and last year that class turned over £2,000. The civilizing influence of this class has been extraordinary. If you met the pupils even three miles away you would recognize them as

girls who attend this class. Those girls had all been doerly girls, or engaged at spring labour, carrying turf, carrying manure with their hands, and so on. They got tidied up in the class. That is one of the objects of the Board—to civilize them.

19248. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Do you recognize them by their cleanliness and tidiness of dress, or by their demeanour, or how?—You would recognize them anywhere by their tidiness and neatness. The classes have a great influence in improving their standard of living, but I will come to that later on.

19249. Sir JOHN COLSON.—With regard to the £21,850 paid to the workers, could you give us the geographical distribution of that?—Yes. There was £2,327 in Donegal; £219 in Leitrim—there are very few classes there—£2,766 in Sligo; £20,197 in Mayo; £4,333 in Galway; £689 in Kerry; and £479 in County Cork. There were only three classes in Cork and two in Kerry, while there were eighteen in Mayo.

19250. Would it be possible, having given us this geographical distribution, to give us—I don't ask you for it now if you do not know, but you might obtain the information later on—an idea of the population that could be fairly taken to be benefited by these classes?—I have got an illustration further down of that.

19251. Then pass on, please?—During the past eight years workers have been kept practically fully employed. There have been short periods when the demand fluctuated and orders were scarce, but there were many more occasions on which workers were being strongly pressed for delivery than occasions on which work was scarce. As illustrating the difficulty of providing employment for the people in some congested districts, the north-west district of Mayo, in the neighbourhood of Belmullet, may be referred to. In 1907 I was asked to visit this district, and to report on the possibility of starting any description of home industry there. Many places in this district are over forty miles from a railway station, and it was recognized that the Board would have a most difficult and expensive task in establishing home industries there, inasmuch as the wages to be earned in all home industries are low, that people accustomed to work of this sort would not be very keen on work, and that the turnover and wages would be at first extremely small. In such a district private enterprise can effect little or nothing, where every worker has to be trained, and carriage paid competitive out of the question. The people in such districts will want to see wages in an industry before they are half trained, and would despair of earning anything commensurate with their trouble, as it takes a long time to acquire sufficient dexterity to work quickly and well. I suggested that workers might be paid a small amount weekly at first, and that something should be produced which could be sent by parcel post, and that while it would be foolish for anyone to try to establish industries in this district as a means of making money, that time and patience would effect much in the end. The Board shortly afterwards opened a crochet class at Pallethomas, and the industry has gradually extended.

19252. You say the people in these districts will want to see wages in an industry before they are half trained. These people are very poor, are they not?—Yes.

19253. And living in very squalid circumstances?—Very.

19254. I don't exactly understand why people in that position should not grasp at anything in the shape of money. It strikes me as curious and I would ask you to enlighten me as to why people living in these very poor districts in a very squalid condition will want to see wages in an industry before they are half trained?—It is simply because you are dealing with what I may call a "stagnant" population, a population who never had any industry to follow and are therefore poor, and it takes a longer time in a district of that description than in a district where the people are a little bit better off, and are more accustomed to work.

19255. That is not exactly my point. My point is the attitude of mind of these people as shown in this paragraph impresses me with the idea that they make a demand which they are not entitled to have conceded. That is what I want to get at?—One would suppose in offering industrial employment of this sort in such a place that the people would simply duck in. They don't.

19256. To what cause do you attribute that disinclination to get any little money they can when they see in this disposable condition?—I attribute it to the fact that they never knew what steady employment was.

19257. Mr. BAYNE.—The real reason is that until they are trained they cannot earn any money. You say you are willing to give them work when they know how to do it. At present they don't know how to do it. They used to come in to do work on the faith of getting what it is worth, and they would not get anything for a long time. Therefore they don't see the fun of grinding away for nothing?—In that very district the Board paid these girls three pence a day to attend. That was not done for more than three months. Although a girl might be able to earn three shillings a week at the time the three pence a day was knocked off, she thought more of the three pence per day that she got for attendance than of the three shillings that might possibly be earned. That was the critical time of the class.

19258. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—Why did she think so much of the three pence a day?—I cannot explain it, but I know that it is very prevalent.

19259. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Because she never got it before?—The steady daily payment.

19260. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—Was there any sentiment attaching to the three pence a day that was not attaching to the three shillings?—No. One would naturally suppose if a girl earned eighteen pence a week for coming to a class that, when she could earn three shillings a week by industry, she would stick to the industry. It does not at all follow. That was the critical time of the class. To get over that difficulty the Board devised a bonus. It was at a very early stage of the Board's work that these questions arose. Where a girl could earn three shillings a week the Board proposed to give a shilling extra if she earned five shillings a week, so while they might have had the power of earning five shillings a week before that, it was only when they were offered an extra shilling a week on condition of earning five shillings a week that they did get as far as five shillings a week. From a large experience of workers I have always found that if a girl in a factory can earn, say eight shillings a week, if you say "If you earn ten shillings a week you will get a shilling extra," she goes for the extra shilling, and she forgets absolutely that she is earning an extra two shillings. It does not look economic, but it is a fact.

19261. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—She is sure of the other sum, and she wants to get the shilling extra. It is human nature?—That was the Board's policy. It was the salvation of the class. That class turned over £1,750 last year.

19262. Mr. BAYNE.—That was the Pullathomas class?—Yes. I don't think they would ever have got to that point in that district if the girls had not been paid to come to the class at first, and then given the bonus to show the maximum amount they could produce.

19263. This one class has earned nearly as much as the whole of Donegal?—Then with regard to Donegal, you must remember that there are a great variety of other industries that compete. There is knitting and embroidery and hampers wearing in that district.

19264. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I thought all these figures applied to the lace industry only?—Yes; I have given you the figures with regard to lace, but in Donegal the reason that the earnings from lace are less is because they have earnings from a great many other sources.

19265. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Does not this strange fact you have told about the difficulty of attracting people to the industry turn very much upon the antecedent history of the people? Is not it the fact that you have to deal with a population who have never been accustomed to look to a steady fixed remuneration for regular hours of employment?—Quite so. As a matter of fact, in a district like that, there is no public opinion. There is no one in the district who knows what can be earned by steady work. For instance, if you have got a number of trained workers, and these workers can earn eight or nine shillings a week, they are an object lesson to the other girls. There is no public opinion if you have not got to the point where they can earn more than three or four shillings a week; but once you get to the point where a girl can earn ten shillings a week, then the uncles and aunts who criticised the thing say, "If

Mary Anne so-and-so can earn so much then why cannot some other girl earn it?" and then the parents get at the girl and say "How is it you do not earn that amount?" and you form public opinion.

19266. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Did you ever know a community without a public opinion?—I have known a community without a public opinion about industry.

19267. It might not be the same as your opinion or mine, but still it would be an opinion?—Yes.

19268. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—Regarding that "inexplicable" thing you mention, does not a possible explanation lie in this, that the eighteen pence a week is a certain thing while the three shillings a week is perhaps uncertain, and depends on the maintenance of constant attendance?—Quite so; and it was to get over the industrial dead point that it was put on.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—You are quite right; only you see it is not altogether inexplicable.

19269. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Far from it—I should say with regard to that North Mayo district, which is at a distance of forty miles from a railway station, that the girls in that district now are making dresses that are being worn in the streets of Paris, complete, skirt, body, sleeves, and all.

19270. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—Do they get patterns?—Yes. Some of those dresses are sold at high prices.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—You are reversing the former course of things. Paris dresses are worn in the streets of London and West of Ireland dresses are worn in the streets of Paris.

19271. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Is Pullathomas an electoral division or what?—It is a purely country district with scattered houses. The Board have bought the estate there.

19272. Is the district a large area?—I am coming to that. The wages paid to workers last year at Pullathomas came to £1,750, and there are now eight such classes in the North Mayo district, some have been a considerable time in operation, and others have been comparatively recently opened. These eight classes are situated in seven electoral divisions, namely, Belmullet, Bangor, Rathhill, Knocknolew, Mairgo, Knockaduff, and Glenamoy. They cover an area of 73,695 acres, the Poor Law Valuation being £4,030, and the population 7,945. The earnings of the eight classes situated in these electoral divisions last year amounted to £5,158 8s. 10d.

19273. Do these electoral divisions make up the Pullathomas district?—No. Pullathomas is three (indicates on map). There are eight classes that I refer to in the 73,695 acres with a Poor Law Valuation of about £4,800. The earnings of the classes were over £5,000.

19274. You give a specific figure, £1,750, as having been earned by the Pullathomas class. I would like to know what population benefited by that?—The population of Knocknolew, which comprises Pullathomas, is 1,640, but these are girls in that electoral division who were never in the class. They are too far away.

19275. Mr. BAYNE.—So they are earning more than £1 per head of the division?—Yes.

19276. And really now it comes to this, that the earnings in those seven electoral divisions are 50 per cent. higher than the valuation?—Yes.

19277. Or, roughly speaking of the rent, more than the rent is earned by them?—Quite so. A large proportion of the Board's classes are situated in out-of-the-way districts, where there are few civilising influences. The teachers have instructions to make the pupils come clean and tidy to the class, and the classes have had a very considerable influence both on the pupils and on their homes, improving the standard of living and home comfort. In many districts a considerable increase in the number of cattle has been due to the earnings of the classes, and very frequently the workers lodge a portion of their earnings in the Post Office Savings Bank.

19278. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Tell me, have you any minimum limit of age of pupils—what is the age of the youngest?—Well, with regard to that, the Board never take on any pupils below fourteen. We have been frequently able to say to a girl—"Your brothers and sisters are not attending school, and if you do not insist upon them going to school we won't give you employment." We can use the fact that the girl is learning at the lace class in order to improve the attendance at school, and it has been so in a good many places.

Feb. 26, 1897.
 My. W. J. D.
 Walker.

19379. I suppose in these districts that you are speaking of there is a National school every five or six miles?—There are plenty of schools, but a dreadfully bad attendance.

19380. And as regards tidiness and punctuality and that, as I understand you, the Congested Districts Board with its lace-making classes is really doing the work of the primary school?—I would not say that.

19381. As regards punctuality, cleanliness, and manners, and all that?—Yes; if there is a scheme of domestic economy it has a great influence in many of these districts.

19382. But this is my point. You told us just now that in these remote districts you could really pick out on the road a girl attending these classes?—Certainly.

19383. And you attribute that to the influence that the lace-making exercises?—Oh, yes.

19384. In producing punctuality and cleanliness. But punctuality and cleanliness are part of the primary school business, and therefore it would appear to me that the primary schools are not raising the population in the way that they were intended to do, in the matter of punctuality, tidiness, cleanliness, and all that?—If you take a district like North-west Mayo you will find that large numbers are illiterate. For instance, in the Electoral Division of Knocknawater the percentage of illiterates over five years of age is 46.5; in Knockadea it is 48.4; in Manugraha, 50; in Binghamstown, 43.7; in Rathhill, 43.7. In South Galway it is even greater.

19385. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In those districts how many of the children during their early years do stay at home herding cattle and sheep?—Well, I do not know. In the North Mayo district, which has an enormously wide area, the attendance at school is very very bad.

19386. But without questioning that, has not it also to be said that lots of these children are much poorer than the children who are provided with meals now when going to English schools?—Well, I believe they are. As a matter of fact, in the relief time of 1866, when there were free meals given to school children in Cork, Kerry, Clare, and Mayo, the attendance improved. These meals cost £2,385, and they were distributed over 367 schools. There were 375,000 meals given, and they cost a penny per head.

19387. So that would lead to the conclusion that the attendance would be better if someone were bound to feed the children?—That is a question that really requires to be dealt with in an inquiry of this sort, because I think the Commissioners are hardly aware of the nature of the food of the children in these districts. I have, I may as well say, ascertained from some of Lady Dudley's houses what the diet of the children in the worst of these country districts is, and it is a very monstrous one, in some parts of Galway and Mayo and in part of Donegal. For breakfast—tea, frequently with milk, dry home-baked bread, sometimes with butter. Dinner—potatoes and milk, occasionally with fish. Four o'clock—tea with dry bread. Supper—potatoes, sometimes with milk. And in winter the meals are—Breakfast, black tea without any milk, and home-made bread. Dinner, potatoes. Four o'clock tea, without milk, and dry bread. Supper, potatoes, without any milk. In winter when the potatoes fail there place is taken by Indian meal. The children share the same food with grown-up people, and suffer greatly in consequence. The women tell me that they have known women give children under nine months of age boiled stone and water when they have no milk, a thing which the stomach of no child of that age could digest. The question of dirt has really a great deal to do with the question of school attendance, and if some scheme could be devised for the very poorest districts, where the school attendance is worst, and where the illiteracy is abnormal, to deal with these children, giving them a square meal once a day, I think it would be most desirable. Such a scheme might also introduce the teaching of domestic economy, because domestic economy is really a primary school business, if it would not cost very much, and it would increase the attendance at the school, for the teaching of domestic economy involves education with some interest. In these districts for a penny per head per meal a nutritious meal could be given on five days a week, and it would be an enormous advantage during the winter months to these poor children.

19388. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Do you know whether this matter has ever been considered by the Board of National Education in Ireland?—No, Sir

Arthor, I do not think so. I made a calculation of what it would cost in certain Poor Law Unions where the number of children of school age is 37,000, the number on the rolls 22,000, and the average attendance 15,000. These unions are Dandelanagh, Glenties, Belmullet, Westport, Chifden, and Oughterard. My calculation was on the basis of a penny per head. Taking the number of children who are attending the schools at present as 15,000—there are 37,000 available—the attendance would be at once increased by 50 per cent., that is to 22,000, and a penny a day for five days in the week for five months in the year would be only £2,400. There should be in connection with the National schools in these districts a separate room where cookery and domestic economy instruction could be given. I have put down the cost of 200 rooms to be built for this purpose at £100 each, that is £20,000, and interest at 5 per cent. on that would be £1,000, and I put down the cost of instruction at about £1 a week, which would be £4,000, and sundries £1,600. This would come to £25,000, and I think it would be the best outlay of money that the Government ever made in these districts.

19389. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Ah, but it is not so in England. It is not the Government—it is the locality?—Of course, what we have got to remember is that it may look more or less socialistic, but then the treatment of the people there previously was nihilistic as regards education, because the Penal Laws are the great primary cause of this illiteracy. The Penal Laws were in force in my grandfather's days. And certainly were in force in most people's great-grandfather's days. The immediate ancestors of all these people were denied education, and that is the great cause of the illiteracy of to-day.

19390. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Then you think there are reasons applicable to the districts which would not apply to the rest of Ireland?—The rest of Ireland was more in contact with civilization 100 years ago. There were then no roads by which any persons could conveniently reach these districts, and people had to have large pieces of wood tied to their horses' feet in order to get over the bogs in many places.

19391. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the deduction from that?—My deduction is simply that, that for education in such places something special has got to be done.

19392. You were pointing out that there were certain roads not in existence in the country 300 years ago, but there are plenty of places in the country where that was the case outside Ireland?—I quite believe that.

19393. They will put forward the same claim then if you see establishing a claim on the State?—They have not the same claim with regard to the annihilation of education. In Scotland you have had a more or less organized system of education without interruption for 340 years.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But we paid for it, Mr. Walker.

19394. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But these districts are not in the neighbourhood of any enriching area?—Well, a penny in the pound is a small rate to strike for education. If you strike that rate in the worst part of the South Galway district, comprising some 6,000 people, it will only bring in a ten pound note.

19395. Do you recognize, Mr. Walker, that teaching in domestic science and manual instruction and nature lessons belong to the primary system?—Oh, yes, I think so, certainly; you have got the schoolhouses for the purpose.

19396. Are you aware that these subjects are on the programme of the National Board?—Yes; I saw a recent programme relating to these subjects.

19397. Does not it seem proper that the necessary means should be provided in order to give effect to the programme in these districts?—Well, under the National Board's programme hitherto I think it has been left to the patron of the school to supply the utensils for domestic economy teaching, but I do not think you will ever have a system of instruction in domestic economy unless you have an efficient expert teacher going round these districts, because if you put the teaching of domestic economy, cookery, and laundry on the top of the other subjects which the National teachers have to give instruction in, who need instruction themselves in the matter, I do not think it would be efficient.

19328. Do you require, for such instruction, trained teachers and organisation?—Yes.

19329. Then, if this portion of the programme of the National Board is to be carried out in those poor districts provision must be made for it?—Certainly.

19330. Do you think that at present there is any provision made for equipment by the National Board?—What I say with regard to that is that the National Board leave it to the parishes themselves.

19331. Would not it be difficult for the manager of several schools in those poor districts to provide it?—There would be very great difficulty, and very great difficulty in maintaining the teaching in those schools.

19332. Does not it come to this then, that in your opinion some provision in the way of food is a primary necessity for education in those districts?—Well, to teach cookery you must have food to cook, and I should like to use that food to give the children a square meal.

19333. But in order to get education must not they have some sustaining food?—Certainly.

19334. Do you consider that the class of food which you have described to us is food of a kind that would build up a population interested in education?—I do not think so. And I have known myself of a case where four children in one family, the eldest of whom was twelve years of age, lived on nothing but black tea and dry bread.

19335. And do you think children reared on that diet are fit subjects for education in a National school?—I think that they want first a square meal.

19336. You want first a square meal and the materials of the meal have to be prepared, and for that purpose you require some teaching in domestic science?—Yes, and it should be expert teaching. I do not think you will ever get National school teachers with a smattering of domestic economy to impart it to the children in such a way as really to make it efficient at all.

19337. But if the National school teachers do not do it don't you think that there should be someone in connection with the primary system charged with it?—Oh, certainly.

19338. How would you manage that?—These country districts differ, but there is hardly any place in Ireland where an instructor who could teach that efficiently would not be able to attend to four or five schools.

19339. Mr. BAYNE.—With reference to the case that you mentioned, there is £15,000 to be provided for these facilities?—Yes.

19340. For what area?—Six Poor Law unions. I took the worst, where the school attendance was the worst.

19341. In Galway, was it?—No; some of them in Donegal, some in Mayo, some in Galway—six Poor Law unions. Of course in making the calculation I had the feeling that a good part of these Poor Law unions did not require it, but in some places in Kerry, and in some other places, you would require it; so that you may say that about 37,000 children would be affected.

19342. You only assume certain unions for the purpose of the calculation?—Yes.

19343. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Did you make a calculation as to how much it would cost in any one of them?—I do not think that is necessary, because in these districts the Poor Law Valuation is so low that taxes have to be put extremely high in order to pay the local rates.

19344. Do you know what the average is—because I hear a great deal generally about the great local taxation in Ireland, but I never hear any definite statement of what rates you pay?—I have got that here.

19345. What is the highest?—Well, I have known the rates to be as high as 12s. in the pound. That is the highest I have ever known.

19346. You cannot equal us in Scotland, for in Scotland it is 18s. and 19s.?—I suppose those are the poorest places.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They are the poorest places, just like yours.

Mr. BAYNE.—Only that it does not apply to such a large population in Scotland.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But the principle is the same. It is a mere question of principle.

Mr. BAYNE.—It is admitted that it is worse in those parts of Scotland than it is in any part of Ireland.

19347. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—With regard to the meals,

I take it that a meal is required, seeing the long hours that the children are away from home?—Yes, but I do not put it that way.

19348. No; I gather that you just put it down as an ordinary part of their dietary?—I consider that there is quite insufficient feeding of the children in those districts.

19349. And that you would look to the school for the principal meal of the day?—Well, in the winter months.

19350. Of course it is easy to understand that children who travel a long distance to school are not able to go home at the interval to get food, and that it would be desirable to supply them with a meal; but you would go further and give it to every child?—I would give it to necessitous cases.

19351. Sir ARTHUR MACDONALD.—Not except in the case of children attending school?—There are some children there perhaps that would not take the meal given as their parents at home would supply them, but there are other children that would require to get it.

19352. Sir JOHN CROWE.—But there are some who would not take the meal?—There are some who would not take the meal.

19353. But do you know any young persons at all in Ireland who would not take what they could get for nothing?—Well, they would not require it.

19354. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—No, but in time you will bring them to it if you go on with a certain policy?—Yes, but my meaning is to bring them to education.

19355. But that is disputable too. After all what is education?—Something they never get.

19356. Or civilisation perhaps. You used that term very freely, and these are all terms that are comparative in many respects. But with regard to the meals, I take it that you are advocating it, not from the expediency point of view that I referred to, but because you wanted the children to get a meal?—Well, I put it on two grounds, one is to get over the difficulty of the enormous percentage of ill-health, and the other is to build up the strength of the child on a proper diet, the diet at present being so largely composed of black tea.

19357. But then, where are those places that you make this selection of dietary from?—They are the Bannulet district of Mayo, and in South Galway.

19358. Have you observed the adult population there?—Yes.

19359. How did they look physically?—Well, they looked very well from the outside, but those are not men who could do a heavy day's work with a shovel like an English navvy.

19360. Have you ever seen any Irish navvies in this country?—We have a few; yes.

19361. Both of us?—Yes.

19362. They had heavy work and they did it?—Well, they had fairly heavy work, but it is the very strong well-built man that goes for that kind of work.

19363. What is the physique in that part of the West of Ireland?—Well, I think myself that the men in those districts are not as strong or as capable of physical exertion as men in better-off districts, and I know, as a matter of fact, that it has recently been shown by statistics that the percentage of those who go to America and who become farmers is larger than that of any other nation.

19364. But take the case of the cotton operative in Lancashire. How does he compare in physique with the Connemara man?—I should say that the Connemara man had the best of it.

19365. Well, you would admit that the Lancashire cotton operative gets butcher meat two or three times a week?—But he does not get the same amount of fresh air.

19366. And that is a compensation, and that compensation might equalise them?—Yes, but another countryman gets meat and he shares the fresh air.

19367. It is quite possible to overrate the advantages of this kind of animal food without taking into account other circumstances. Then you spoke of a sham population?—Yes.

19368. You did not mean that in any offensive sense?—I referred to the submerged tenth.

19369. The question as to that is a moral question and there is no doubt I suppose, whatsoever, about the high morality of these people?—Oh, they are very highly moral.

19370. And their physique is good, and their intelligence is founded upon instruction, not literary?—

Feb. 18, 1907.

Mr. W. J. D. Walker.

Well, what has got to be remembered with regard to that is this, that we cannot tell what the effect in a generation or two of that diet upon the whole population may be, because the introduction of tea is comparatively recent.

18343. So that the physique of the next generation may be worse!—Very much worse.

18342. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—There is just one question I wish to ask with regard to the school attendance. You have seen the schoolhouses in the locality that we have been considering?—Oh, yes, Sir Anthony, I have been in a great many of them.

18344. Are the schoolhouses that you go to, attractive?—Well, they are not nearly so attractive as the schoolhouses that the Board have built; but then the Board have built very few, and we have to take whatever building we can get as a rule.

18344. But, then, taking the building that you have got, do you beat it?—Oh, yes, there is a fire in it.

18345. And is there a fire always in the National school in the winter?—Well, in the winter I see the children going to school, and though this custom has been supposed to be extinct, I see that many of them carry turf under their arms to the schoolroom. A great deal might be done to make the place more attractive. And then another thing is this. If anything were going to be done to somehow overcome the educational handicap, I think that the very best teachers that can be got for money should be sent down to these places for, say, twenty years—teachers specially paid something additional for what you might call hardship. In that way really intellectual highly trained teachers might be brought in contact with these children. This would be very effective. There is nothing wrong with the children, and they are really smart when they get the chance of proper education.

18346. Mr. SUMNER.—You think that the schools might be made more attractive?—Yes.

18347. It appears to me from what I saw in Ireland that the schoolrooms were, possibly, fairly attractive; but what struck me was the great disparity in size between the schoolroom and the population—for instance, at a place like Carroneagh, in Donegal. Why if one were in Scotland, that would not seem as a school for a hamlet of twelve or fourteen families, yet Carroneagh is of considerable size!—Of course the schoolroom accommodation, I suppose, is adequate to the very, very poor attendance. If you had compulsory education in these backward districts to force the children into school, I do not think that the school accommodation is anything like adequate.

18348. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Would you say that it is adequate even as circumstances now exist, considering the increased population that comes to the school at certain months of the year? I understood Mr. Butler to say that the schools that he saw were inadequate to the average attendance. When the average attendance is exceeded in certain months of the year what becomes of the children?—They are simply crowded.

18349. Is not that insanitary?—The sanitary condition of a great number of these schools is very bad. I have been in a school in Antrim 13 ft. 3 in. by 23 ft. 6 in., and there were eighty children there.

18350. How many?—Eighty.

18351. And one may expect that children like that will carry away the seeds of disease?—Yes; and then there was a rough floor, and you could hardly say which was the roof and which was the wall.*

18352. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Are you aware of applications for years back to the National Board for improved accommodation there, and that the grant was not made?—With respect to that, I know that there is a new school being built—that Monsignor Walker is building a new school.

18353. Would you propose to provide proper accommodation for the children in attendance, and to give a room for these domestic classes?—Oh, yes.

18354. A second room would be useful in all those country schools?—Yes. That is the reason I put down £100 per school for rooms for domestic economy.

18355. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What kind of meal would you give for a penny?—A piece of bread and some vegetable soup for a penny.

18356. To pay yourself, not to be at a loss on your money?—No.

18357. Sir JAMES COLMAN.—I did not catch that?—You can give a small piece of bread and some soup for a penny.

18358. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—There is an association of ladies in Dublin who at certain times of the year give a very large one to children for a penny.

18359. Sir JAMES COLMAN.—Now I just want to ask you on this point one or two questions. One of your duties has brought you into contact, I presume, with school managers and schoolmasters and mistresses?—I see more of the pupils than of the masters or mistresses. I see a great number of managers.

18360. Have you formed an expression of opinion on the part of those concerned that in the primary schools of Ireland the attendance has fallen very much off since fees were abolished—that the attendance was much higher when parents had to pay than now, when they have not?—No; I cannot say that I have formed that opinion, because I think that since then the reports of the National Education Commissioners show that the attendance has improved. In Kerry I cannot say whether there has been a falling off in attendance; the percentage of illiterates in Kerry is very much less than what it is in Mayo or Galway, or even some of the Ulster counties. It may have fallen off in Kerry, but it has, I think, rather improved in Mayo and Galway.

18361. At all events, it has not been mentioned to you by school managers?—No.

18362. Well, now, in the dietary you gave us potatoes seem to be the only solid?—Yes.

18363. Well, where potatoes are grown I suppose cabbages, turnips, onions, beans, and all those excellent vegetables would grow?—Yes, they would grow; but they do not grow.

18364. That is the point. And when you spoke of giving a square meal, an excellent dinner for a penny and a vegetable soup, does not that involve the growth of cabbages, onions, turnips, and beans?—Yes.

18365. Then, surely, when you propose giving this square meal in those districts you must, in order to meet the requirements of that policy, add an extra room to the school, and to carry out that policy you must add a garden to the school where cabbages, onions, turnips, and beans may be grown, which are necessary for the square meal. Must not you add it as a necessity?—If you were to begin to-morrow you might get over that, but it would be a very valuable adjunct later on.

18366. If you started to-morrow to give a square meal to the children in this district at a penny per head where are the materials to provide the soup?—We should have to bring the materials into the district.

18367. You would have to bring it into the district when you could, by means of a garden, produce those things which are so necessary?—That is so.

18368. And, therefore, if you contemplate carrying out your policy of a square meal to feed the children, surely it will be a necessary part of that policy, instead of bringing it into a district which may be forty miles away from a railway, to grow what is necessary for making a good soup and a square meal?—Yes; it may be done in the country even more cheaply than I say, but that involves the question of agricultural teaching.

18369. And would not it also be a necessary and direct result of having a garden attached to the school for the growth of these things, that it would create a demand on the part of the children on going home to get the same things?—Yes.

18370. Mr. BUTLER.—You mentioned a particular school where there were eighty children in a small space. I may say that is four and a half square feet per child. Now is there any regulation in Ireland with regard to the space provided for each child in a National school?—Yes.

18371. What is the regulation in Ireland with regard to the space foot space per child?—I am not quite sure. Sir JAMES COLMAN.—I think it is ten square feet.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—There is no definite space in Ireland.

18372. Sir JAMES COLMAN.—Will you now, please, go on with your remarks about hindrance to industrial progress? The industrial classes of the Board are, however, in many districts of less value than they should be. In some districts the emigration of workers when trained leaves the Board little to show for a considerable expenditure, and is a source of great disappointment to the teachers. There is also frequently great apathy on the part of the people, and it is difficult to arouse an interest in a new industry. Is a great part of the congested dis-

* The number of cubic feet of space in this school was 35,006, which, with 80 present—and there have been 100—would be 44 cubic feet per pupil.—W. J. D. W.

ists there is a very large percentage of illiterates, and numbers of the workers have little or no education. Steady and punctual attendance at school should be insisted upon by the local authorities, as, even apart from the education received, steady and punctual attendance at school, and the ingrained habit of doing something punctually every day, would materially contribute to lead up to industrial developments later on. One of the greatest difficulties of the Board's classes is the unpunctuality and irregular attendance of the workers. Instruction in drawing is very much required in order that workers may be able to adapt themselves quickly to the new designs which are required in order to command the market. Those classes where the pupils are quick to adapt new designs have hitherto been certain of steady employment. Future developments depend largely on readiness to follow the requirements of the market, and this, again, has to do with a higher standard of education and early instruction in drawing. At several classes instruction in drawing has been given to the pupils on one day in each week with the best results, and in some instances the Board have sent specially bright pupils for a course of instruction in drawing at the Metropolitan Schools of Art at Cork and Dublin.

19373. You propose to say something about the knitting industry?—The extensive hand-knitting industry which formerly employed a considerable number of people in Donegal has almost disappeared under the competition of machine-knitting. The Board have given instruction in the use of knitting machines at numerous centres, and machine-knitting is now coming into very general use. The knitting machines are supplied by the Board to workers at a cost price of about £5 5s. each, on solvent security, and while the rate of pay formerly obtained for hand-knitting had gone down as low as 2s. per dozen pairs, workers can now earn 3s. 6d. per week in their own homes.

19374. Are not there any returns showing the number of machines in the different districts?—They are only in Donegal.

19375. And whether the use of them is on the increase?—The black wools on the map which I produce shows the places. There are 130 machines.

19376. Is that the total number since the commencement?—It is only within the last two years, and those new machines are bringing in about £2,500 a year in wages to the districts in Donegal to which they have been supplied.

19377. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are they lent free of charge?—No. The cost price is 25s., and the worker pays for it in two years' instalments, with 3½ per cent. interest on the loan.

19378. And then it becomes the worker's property?—Yes.

19379. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—Once again, I must say that in considering all these maps and all the information you have given, I am very much struck by this: that Donegal, as regards the efforts of the people and the readiness of the people to improve their condition, seems to be beyond all the other congested districts in the country. Do you agree with that?—I do.

19380. Will you give me your views, however you account for it?—Because in Donegal you have always had an industrial population.

19381. Can you account for that, for I want to get at the root of it? You find by these maps that in a small country like Ireland you have one county so very far ahead in readiness to take advantage of every opportunity offered to it?—I attribute it to the fact of the geographical position of Donegal.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The nearest point to Scotland.

19382. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You must go much farther and deeper than that!—Take Londonderry, it is a centre of districts for Donegal, and fifty or sixty years ago there was a very large hand-sewn industry carried on there, which brought them in contact with Glasgow, so that you had an industrial population working in connection with these centres.

19383. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—But that does not account for the condition of the people?—I attribute it to a very great extent to the fact that Donegal was not cut off from the rest of the world, as those extreme districts of Mayo and Galway were.

19384. Why?—Because a good deal of it is occupied by an industrial population, and those home industries went on in Donegal before the development of the railway system; and it is only recently the railway system has opened up in Mayo and Galway.

19385. What you mean is proximity to great centres like Derry and Belfast?—Yes, and another thing is this, that it has been the habit of the Donegal people to go away and find work in such places as the shippards of Glasgow, and that has had a very considerable effect.

19386. Therefore, you do attribute some of the reasons for this difference between Donegal and other places to the fact of the population being a migratory population?—Yes, and I think another thing might be taken into consideration, too. The whole atmosphere of Donegal is very much more bracing than what it is in Mayo and Galway. I can do more work myself in Donegal than if I were living in Galway.

19387. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do you know anything in the history of the two parts of the country to account for the superiority of Donegal, if this superiority exists. Have not the people of Donegal always striven to hold their own—has not it been entirely different in the case of Connaught—does not the historical expression, "To hell or Connaught" give you a clue?—Connaught was the dumping ground for all those who could not get on elsewhere.

19388. Who could not get on elsewhere?—Who were driven to Connaught.

19389. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you heard of a Irish Act of Parliament, the Act of Satisfaction to the Adventurers to Ireland?—Yes.

19390. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth?—Yes.

19391. By which the adventurers got all the Irish land?—Yes.

19392. Would not that be sufficient to account for it?—Yes.

Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—But were not these plantations in Donegal, too?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Dr. O'Donnell can say that they were, I think, much less than elsewhere.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In Donegal, in the plantation of Ulster there was not one acre of good land left to the old Celtic population even as occupiers.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But the old population remained.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Quite true. They made the last stand, I am glad to say, for Irish liberty.

Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—Perhaps this is going into a political question.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I am afraid if we look into the misfortunes of Ireland we will have to go into the political part yet.

19393. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—At all events we have got these facts. You attribute the advanced state of Donegal, as compared with other districts, not entirely, but to a certain degree, to the proximity to the centres of employment and to the migration of the people, which causes them to get larger knowledge of the world and of what is going on elsewhere to make them more enterprising—is that it?—Yes.

19394. You do not mean to say that it is all the reason?—For instance, in Armagh, which is a very congested place, you will meet men who have been doing very careful work in building ships, and helping to lay down electric light, and work of that sort; this cannot fail to have an effect when such men come home.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In confirmation of the view that Sir Anthony drew from Mr. Walker, I might be allowed to say that as far as I can see the Donegal people have had advantage in the ways Mr. Walker has specified that the people in Connaught had not. From their situation in Ireland it was not possible for them to avail of opportunities that came to the Donegal people, and it is no fault whatever of the people, in my opinion, in the West of Ireland that they have not had the same adaptability just up to the present. It will come later on.

19395. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—I hope you understand I was not passing any remarks on the character of the people in the West of Ireland at all. It was merely the economic aspect of the question that I wished to confine myself to. Will you go on with the home-spin weaving instruction?

—Numerous classes for giving instruction in weaving have been held in various parts of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, Kerry and Cork, and although the production of home-spun, in competition with machine made goods, is not a very remunerative occupation, it is still a very considerable industry in South Donegal, where the people card, spin, and

Feb. 16, 1902.

Mr. W. J. D. Walker.

Feb. 14, 1897.
Mr. W. J. D.
Walton.

wear the wool of their own sheep, and the production is sold at the monthly fairs of Carrick and Ardara in the open market. Industrial loans for improved looms and spinning wheels are given by the Board on proper security. In South Donegal the annual turnover in home-spun is something like £11,000 per year. At the monthly fairs of Ardara and Carrick, in County Donegal, the Board measure the wools, and up till quite recently graded and ticketed each web according to quality.

19398. Mr. ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do not you do something like that at present with regard to home-spun—the other day the Board had that matter before them?—They do not grade the wools at present, they measure them. The places on this map (indicates) are places where the Board have given weaving instruction in Kerry, Cork, Donegal, Mayo, and Galway.

19399. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What was the name of that place we visited near Stranorlar?—Conroy woollen mills.

19400. That is the sort of work we saw going on there?—That is a woollen mill, but all this refers to hand-weaving of home-spuns similar to what you have got in Harris.

19398. Mr. BRYCE.—Why have you given up grading the wools according to quality?—I do not say it has been given up. It may come on again. The object is to devise some scheme by which wools manufactured purely from hand-spun yarns will in future be sold as such. You had in evidence at Killybegs that the tendency was to use machine-spun yarns for the home-spun, and the Board felt it could not sanction that in connection with the South Donegal industry, and they stopped grading wools until such time as arrangements might be made in connection with some scheme to have a pure home-spun.

19399. Mr. KATONAGH.—Is there the same export for home-spun, or is it only for home consumption?—It nearly all goes to England and America. Last year the reports show that the turnover was £11,000 for South Donegal alone.

19400. That is all export?—It is nearly all export.

Mr. BRYCE.—There are several shops in London where you can get it. In Queen Victoria-street there is a shop.

Mr. KATONAGH.—I thought most of it was worn by the people themselves.

19401. Mr. JOHN CONNOR.—Would you go on with the domestic economy classes?—The Congested Districts Board, as in the case of the Lanes and Industrial Classes, was the first Board in Ireland to inaugurate a regular system of thorough domestic economy instruction. These classes last for a minimum of four months at each centre. Six trained and certified teachers are employed by the Board, who give instruction in cookery, laundry, and domestic economy. The teachers itinerate from one district to another, and when a suitable building can be found, and a proper attendance secured of from twenty to twenty-five pupils, in the forenoon, and a similar number of other pupils in the afternoon, a four months' course of instruction is given. These classes are very popular and have been found to be of great service. They are calculated to improve the home surroundings of the people, and instruction is given how to make nutritious food from inexpensive materials. Girls trained at these classes can easily get situations in this country as domestic servants, while if they emigrate, as a number of them do, they are much better fitted for entering domestic service, and the Board's certificate given at the expiration of the four months' course has a recognised value. Six teachers are now employed upon this work. Ninety full courses of instruction have been given, and 4,800 pupils have been under instruction. I have a map here indicating where the Board have had a full course of four months' domestic economy at each of the red spots (indicates).

19402-3. There again Donegal seems to have participated to a greater extent than in other places. All these maps seem to bring prominently before my mind the advanced condition of Donegal as compared with other congested counties?—I have never known the Board to refuse a domestic economy class in any district. That simply represents the natural applications that came to the Board for domestic economy classes.

19404. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are these carried on at National Schools?—No, you cannot have a domestic economy class at most National schools in the absence of an ante-room where the class can be properly carried on.

19405. Mr. ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You do not move for the formation of the class unless the application comes to you?—Practically in every one of these cases the application comes from the local clergyman.

19406. Would not it be desirable that the Board should move in Mayo—in that very large tract which is unmarked by red spots?—There is very little population there. The spot indicated is an enormous area of mountain and bog.

19407. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That will add considerably to the cost—you will have to pay rent for houses to teach in?—Yes. Sometimes we have to do the house up, get it whitewashed, put in windows, and so far the cost of these classes is about £25 per class.

19408. Mr. JOHN CONNOR.—For four months?—Yes.

19409. Mr. BRYCE.—What interval elapses between one four months' class and another?—Very frequently districts that have had teachers apply for them again the following year. It shows that the classes are appreciated. But as a rule the classes are held in new districts.

19410. We heard in Donegal in several places that a great deal of good had been done, but that there were no classes for two years?—That is their own fault.

19411. Is not applying?—Yes.

19412. Carradough, for instance?—I have now a class in Lishdown. The parish priest spoke in strong terms of the advantage that has been derived. I sent a teacher about a month after you were in Carradough, and he has since applied to have another class in his parish.

19413. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How long should these classes last?—If we wanted to do really efficient work we could not do it in less than four months. I found that by the end of four months the girls dropped off in attendance, so there are two limits—the limit of having it for a sufficient time to effect the object desired, and the limit of possible attendance of the girls.

19414. Mr. JOHN CONNOR.—I suppose you can give me some information as to what is done in these places?—I have the syllabus here.

19415. Do they begin with cleaning utensils and scrubbing?—The syllabus means a great deal more than simply what it states. It includes under cookery:—Making of tea, coffee, and cocoa; bread-making by yeast, buttermilk, and water and cream of tartar; different methods of cooking, roasting, different methods of cooking vegetables; pickling, cleaning, tinning, and cooking of fowl; making of sauces to be served with meats, fish and fowl; making of simple puddings and sauces to serve with them; different methods of cooking fish; different methods of cooking eggs; pastry making (for fruit and meat).

19416. In a wild district such as you have been describing surely pastry-making for fruit and meat goes out?—There is no district in the West in which you cannot get a bit of meat. You can make beef-steak pie there quite easily. Then there are:—Soups from meat and vegetables. Invalid Cookery.—Beef tea, chicken broth, barley water, gruel, arrowroot, lemonade, custard; ways of using cooked foods. Next we have Laundry work.

19417. Before we come to that, is there no instruction given in cleaning and scrubbing in the cookery department?—Yes, it is under the head of domestic economy. Under laundry we have:—Washing and drying of flannels; washing, starching, ironing, and folding of all white clothes, bed linen and body linen; removing stains from table linen; washing, starching, ironing, and folding of table linen; how to wash, starch, and iron a white shirt; how to wash, starch, and iron lace and silk. The next section is domestic economy lessons. In that we have:—How to dress a bed. In every case we have a bed brought about to teach them to make beds. Then we have also:—How to set a breakfast, dinner and tea table; how to wait at table; how to clean up a sitting-room and bedrooms; cleaning of silver, brass, and

tin ware; cleaning of knives and forks; washing of china and glass; how to blockad a grobe or range; how to clean and polish brass; how to clean windows, boots, &c.; making of positions, lined mail, mairied and bread; personal and household cleanliness.

19417a. I don't see anything about cleaning pots and pans?—It is included in domestic economy.

19418. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How many teachers have you?—Six.

19419. Were you the first to begin this class of work in the country?—I cannot say that, but we were the first to introduce to the class of people amongst whom we were working, a regular system of domestic economy instruction. I want to mention the certificate that we give to the girls. At the end of the class we give to the girls in these places if they have worked well a certificate that has a recognised value.

19420. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—The real object of teaching them domestic economy is to enable them to earn their living as well as to improve their home conditions?—Principally to improve the home conditions, and afterwards to fit them for domestic service, to which a good many go.

19421. Taking that list it is obvious, if improving the home conditions is the main object, that nine-tenths of what is taught is quite above the heads of the girls and cannot be of any use?—As a matter of fact girls will not come to a domestic economy class simply to learn scrubbing. You have got to put in as much cookery as makes it attractive.

19422. Then your domestic economy class is to fit them to leave their own districts and go elsewhere to domestic service?—It works that way. If they intend to go it is better that they should go prepared, than to go unprepared.

19423. But as a matter of fact it is so. A girl who becomes proficient in the different subjects, and to whom you give a certificate, obviously is fitted for a very much higher condition of service than she has a chance of getting in her own district?—We have had pupils who attended domestic economy classes at Smeem, and you will find them at Parkinella and Kennam. If it had not been for the domestic classes they would never have had the opportunity.

19424. That is a very small proportion?—It is a small proportion.

19425. The bulk of the pupils are really being fitted by you to obtain outside the district employment that is not to be found in the district?—It works out in that way.

19426. Therefore, when we are told that the people won't leave their own homes, that the men won't go from Connemara to Donegal to learn fishing, the same remark does not apply to your classes?—Girls learn under your system, and it is really as fit them to leave these impoverished districts, to earn their living elsewhere, and improve their position?—It frequently has that result. A girl goes to America and gets a good situation on showing her certificate. I have known cases of two girls from the same village going to America. One, who had a certificate, got a situation at once on showing it, and the other, who had no certificate, did not get a place easily.

19427. Therefore, the girls have every incentive to attend these classes because they are going to leave the country?—In Smeem I have known a girl to walk eight miles each way every day to and from the class, and gave seventy attendances out of a possible eighty.

Mr. BUTHERLAND.—Because she was anxious to go to America?

19428. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Out of the 4,000 pupils who have undergone this training, about how many emigrated and how many remained in Ireland?—I think quite 25 per cent. have emigrated.

19429. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—How many have left their districts and gone into service in Dublin, Cork, England or Scotland?—Any of them that want service at home can get it, as there is a very great demand for domestic servants. We have given the names of the teachers to registry offices in Cork and Dublin.

19430. Would it be possible for you to ascertain at any of these places how many of the pupils of these original classes remain in the district out of the total number?—I suppose it would with a little inquiry.

19431. Would you kindly make that inquiry?—I shall try if I can find that out.

19432. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—What I want to know is the ultimate destination of the pupils—the proportion that remain and the proportion that leave, and,

if possible, I would like a distinction made between those who emigrate to America and so on, and those who find employment in other parts of Ireland, Scotland, or England.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Will you add to that what effect has been produced in improving the domestic economy of the farmers' houses in the neighbourhood?

Sir JOHN CONNELL.—We had evidence in Donegal in two or three places to satisfy me that the effect of these classes was to improve the homes; I am not denying that in the least.

19433. Mr. BAYNE.—The parish priest to whom we referred just now at Carradragh told me he had employed a girl who had been in one of the domestic economy classes, and was highly satisfied with her. He added that the general effect was that when people went to the houses where these girls were employed and saw how well things were done, it helped to improve the standard of living in the district?—With regard to that, there are no other classes conducted under the Board in reference to which so many testimonials came to the Board. These testimonials express the highest appreciation of the services of the instructors, and say how great is the benefit that they confer. I have received two since I came to London.

19434. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Your next subject is manual instruction classes?—Yes. The Board also employ itinerant manual instructors. Some twenty-six courses of instruction have been given in the use of carpenter's tools, at various places. The pupils are given such practical instruction as will enable them to make such useful articles as boxes, pots, window frames, wheelbarrows, and other household requirements. Loans are given to the pupils for a pound's worth of useful tools, which can be paid off by easy instalments.

19435. Can you develop that a little. Twenty-six courses have been given—where have they been given?—At the places marked with round red spots on this map (producer map).

19437. These are places where manual instruction classes have been carried on?—Yes. We have not had many of those classes.

19438. These again Donegal seems to show up prominently?—Yes.

19439. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Has it come under your notice that in early Christian Ireland a great deal was done to train the young people in manual instruction and domestic science?—Yes. I think Joyce refers to it. Every child was taught some description of trade, and even sons and daughters of chieftains had to learn something suitable to their future. The common people were taught something in connection with the wooden industry, and, generally speaking, there was a kind of course of practical instruction similar to what was given among the Romans.

19440. Mr. BAYNE.—That was in early Christian times?—Yes.

19441. In what we call the dark ages?—The dark ages in England and Scotland, but not the dark ages in Ireland.

19442. It was the university of the world at the time?—Yes.

19443. With regard to those classes you don't tell the entire course of instruction. Is there any instruction in any of these poor districts in things like wood-carving, for instance, which would encourage the artistic side of the people, which must be very strong, on account of the beautiful artistic work done in Ireland, stone-carving, illuminating, and writing, in the early ages?—The Board have had applications for wood-carving classes, but looking at it from the commercial point of view, with the industry to intimate and the want of proper instruction in drawing among the people, it was felt that it would take a very long time before much could be done, because the competition of Switzerland, where wood-carving is done, and where it is a hereditary family occupation for generations, and is done very quickly and very cheaply, did not show any margin of wages for untrained workers for a very long time. It is an industry I would like to see developed, but in connection with it you cannot expect any very quick results because of the want of training.

19444. I cannot help thinking that the Irish have got an inherent artistic talent for design?—They have.

19445. And if they were cultivated you would get infinitely better work than you get out of the common

Vol. 11, 1907.

Mr. W. J. D. Walker.

Feb. 14, 1907.

Mr. W. J. D.
Walton.

commercial product of Switzerland. Nobody cares to have Swiss carving—I can give you an illustration of that. There is instruction in drawing given in the local school at Banada. The Board paid for two of the girls to go to the Metropolitan School of Art for four months. One of these girls took first prize for a design for lace at South Kensington in competition with the United Kingdom. That was the result of a little previous instruction in drawing and of this course in the Metropolitan School of Art, and was due to the fact that not only had the pupil some taste for design, but she knew exactly what to do to suit the work, being a lace-maker herself.

19445. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was the design for which this girl got the prize an original design?—It was an original design.

19447. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you never had any complaints from the carpentry trade; you are generally teaching a trade?—If we were working in Belfast or Dublin possibly we might, but in these remote districts you don't have any large community of carpenters to object, because, as a rule, there are no carpenters, and we are free to give more practical instruction than possibly they would be in schools in large towns. The manual instruction classes are really very valuable, because the boy who has learned the use of tools, and gets a pound's worth of tools, under a loan, is able to effect improvements in the home.

19448. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you heard it was greatly against Irish emigrants to America that they had not such a knowledge as you describe, and that in that respect they were not provided, as the German emigrants were, for settling in the land?—Yes. In any new country where they have to turn their hand to everything it is enormously against them not to be able to use tools.

19449. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Is it not the case that since the census of 1881, which is the year of the Land Act, the industrial classes, handy-men, carpenters, and so on, have almost disappeared from the country districts of Ireland?—They might have done that in many parts of the South and West, but not in the North, where there is employment for them. You must give them employment if you are to have them, because otherwise such men go to America, and are valuable there.

19450. Mr. BRYCE.—With reference to the wood-carving, we heard at Killybegs that there had been a class of wood-carving near Donegal under Miss Sinclair?—Yes.

19451. She had gone away and given it up, and handed it over to an old man who lived near Donegal. We tried to meet him, and telegraphed him to bring some of the work to Donegal, but he did not get the telegram in time. Would there be no chance of the Board carrying on that work?—There never was any application. If they had applied the Board probably would have helped. But somehow it is on my mind that it is not a Congested District. I don't know whether the area is congested near where Miss Sinclair lives at Bonnie Glen.

19452. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The area is scheduled, but the locality outside the town of Donegal, where Mr. Bryce was informed the instructor lived, is not congested?—My next section in employment for men. It is to be regretted that while there is possible employment for female workers as proving fairly successful, the way in which the population is actually scattered in the Congested Districts renders it difficult to suggest centres of employment which would suit the establishment of large industries employing both men and women. The home industries such as lace-making, embroidery, houseware, machine-knitting, etc. appear at present to be better suited to the requirements of the people and to the training of an industrial population than any system of providing employment in factories involving large capital expenditure. As regards any extensive scheme for employing men in the Congested Districts, the absence of coal and iron, and the prevalence of high freight and transport charges, make the problem extremely difficult. Apart from increased tillage of the land under the stimulating influence of peasant proprietorship, it is difficult to say how increased employment can be obtained for men except in connection with fishing and possibly quarrying to a limited extent.

19453. Mr. BRYCE.—With regard to quarrying, which, I believe, if the resources of Ireland were properly examined in the West, would probably become a very important industry, that is a thing that the Con-

gested Districts Board could hardly do?—It is a very big thing.

19454. In Galway, for instance, and, I believe, also in Donegal, there are very fine marbles which are at present not worked, or, at least, worked to a very limited extent?—There is red granite at Burtonport and green marble in Galway. The Department of Agriculture has done something in connection with the quarries in Galway, but, of course, the disadvantage is that the freight is very high.

19455. The green marble would stand any freight. It is absolutely unique in the world. There is nothing else like it. The difficulty is to get it. An architect in London cannot specify for it because they cannot deliver in the kind of way he wants or in reasonable time?—There does not appear to be much enterprise in the working of these quarries.

19456. I believe that the Roscom green marble quarry is hampered very much by the fact that the people won't provide dumping ground for the refuse. The only way in which the thing can be worked profitably on an enlarged scale would be by clearing off the overland on the mountain side, and depositing that below, and the passage rights of the people there prevent that from being done?—That would not interfere if there was any enterprise, because the land there is simply bog and heather.

19457. I believe they have been trying to get the land and cannot do it. As regards the amount of capital involved in any of the textile industries it is so large that it is too big a problem for the Congested Districts Board, except in very rare cases. It takes about £300 or £350 per worker of capital outlay to spin and manufacture woollen cloth. It takes about £250 per worker to spin cotton. Some £70 per worker to weave linen, and it takes about £300 per worker of capital to spin linen; so that the capital expenditure required to give employment is very large. The reason that machine-knitting has spread so much in Donegal during the last few years is that the capital expenditure is small; about £15 per worker would carry on the industry. In highly organised industries it means a very large amount of capital, and coal costs also for a large expenditure. The weight of coal involved in making an ordinary web of common coarse linen, between twisting, spinning, and weaving, would be roughly about one and a half cwt. per web of 100 yards. That is another great handicap, because the West is on the wrong side of Ireland as regards coal.

19458. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Take Foxford. Would it be possible to repeat Foxford here and there in the congested area?—It would, and with every prospect of success. The only consideration is capital. I think there is a very hopeful future for the woollen industry, but it is quite wrong to start mills without sufficient capital, because you cripple the industry and cannot give proper employment. The whole question involved is capital and training of workers. Ultimately manufacturers have got to come to Ireland for work because the working population available in Lancashire and Yorkshire is getting very much exhausted and—

19459. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—The working population of Lancashire and Yorkshire is getting very much exhausted?—The development of mills in Lancashire today is infinitely beyond the possibility of supplying workers.

19460. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They are getting less efficient in physique as well?—Yes. I think manufacturers will ultimately have to come to Ireland. It is only a question of capital and time and training workers. You must have patience for that.

19461. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—You have got other nations, such as Japan and China and India, that are going to outdo the western world altogether as regards labour and cheapness. I don't see why you should think Ireland is going to provide the new demand?—I am not very much frightened yet of either China or Japan, and I have been in business all my life. But certainly it threatens. The very fact, however, that you can make carpets in Donegal to compete with India shows that there are possibilities.

19462. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is the water-power in the hilly country along the western shores a valuable consideration in the development of industries?—It might. In some districts there is considerable fluctuation in the supply of water and the height of the fall is comparatively low, so you cannot depend on it very much. As a rule, if you have water-power

you have something in a very out of the way place, and when you remember that an economical steam engine will only use one and a-half lbs. of coal per indicated horse power per hour you will see that it is very often cheaper to use coal than gas to come out of the way place for water power which looks far cheaper than it really is, for you have got trees, turbines, and sluices to maintain, and there are also generally fishing rights to compensate.

19453. Mr. SUMMERLAND.—When you convert it into electricity is there any prospect of using the water-power with advantage?—You might do that, but I would be more inclined to think that electrical development would take place in the way of burning peat or coal and producing electricity in that way, because, after all, the falls on the great proportion of Irish rivers are small, and the water supply uncertain.

19454. Mr. BAYCE.—May I ask do you think in connection with the lace industry you can expect any very considerable further development? Of course, there are fluctuations of fashion and so on. At present it is very much the fashion?—You never can tell. Five years ago I was just as nervous about starting additional classes as I would be today, because, as I have shown, the market for lace has been produced to a large extent by the supply. The supply reacts again upon the demand, so you cannot tell to what extent the demand may grow. Every body, no matter in what country she is, wants a bit of hand-made lace. The development of the lace industry in Ireland has been phenomenal. There is a great future before it. Ladies want to wear lace just the same as they wear jewellery, and they won't take the common machine-made lace; that is when they know. There has been a vast quantity of lace sold in shops all over the United Kingdom as hand-made lace, during the last three years which has all been machine-made. I consider Mr. Boland's proposal for an Irish trade mark to protect that, and have all kinds of hand-made lace marked with this trade mark, will have a very stimulating effect upon the industry in developing it, because the people are really taken in as the shops by being sold machine-made lace instead of hand-made lace.

19455. Do you think there is a considerable development possible in that particular industry?—There is.

19456. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you have a trade mark also for genuine Irish house-spuns?—Yes. The intention is to use the trade mark on house-spuns as well as on other genuine articles of Irish manufacture.

19457. Do you think this lace-making will ever be able to stand upon its own feet, supporting the Congested Districts Board's fostering care was withdrawn from it?—I should not like to see it withdrawn too soon or too early in these poor districts.

19458. Quite so; but in the future do you think that these industries would stand by themselves?—Well, take that North Mayo district. The Board had before it some time ago a proposal to charge a certain percentage on the earnings to pay for the classes, and in the several classes of North Mayo at present we are within 10 per cent. of being on a commercial basis—30 per cent. on a turnover of £5,000 for the last year. There was an outlay of £500. If you consider how educational the work is and how civilising the effect, the Board get a bigger return in the moral elevation of the people than in the earnings.

19459. Mr. BAYCE.—Is it your opinion now that in many of these districts it could stand upon its own feeting?—There are a good many districts in which it could be done, but I would be sorry to see it done just now. Ultimately it will come to that; that is the intention of the Board.

19470. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The result of all that is—the moral effect it has upon the people is to make them more inclined to emigrate than before?—I don't consider there is so much emigration in some of those districts where the lace work is as there was before.

19471. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you find that your lace workers do emigrate?—In some places and in some homes the habit is formed, and it is very hard to break. What you have in Ireland is this: you have got a spot in Ireland and you have another spot in America. The friends and relatives and cousins in that particular spot in America send tickets and take away those on the particular spot at home. In places

where the connection is not so well formed between home and America it is more hopeful.

19472. Is the lace work of any use to them when they do go to America?—There are quite a number of lace workers trained in Ireland working in America.

19473. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Are lace workers?—Yes. And they are working behind a protective tariff of 70 per cent.

19474. Mr. SUMMERLAND.—So you are training lace workers for America?—No, I object strongly to that. In some cases lace workers have gone, we have trained them to make lace. They work at it in America in some cases, but what we have done is to get last year £20,000 into the hands of the poorest people of the West of Ireland who had not done any work of that kind before, and the moral effect of that, altogether apart from what happens to the few that go to America is, I think very great and worth the expenditure.

19475. But the people go out of the country that you are at the expense of training?—You cannot prevent it. People in America are in the habit of sending tickets home. Here is a family in which you have a girl; if she is a lively looking girl, tidied up and clean, such as may have been trained in the lace class, the parents will select her to go, while they keep a less lively girl at home. We must look at it broadly.

19476. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Don't you think that Ireland has not suffered sufficiently from emigration?—She has suffered a great deal, and I don't think we have done with it yet. The habit of going is formed, and it is very hard to break from it or to discourage it.

19477. Mr. BAYCE.—You would not propose to discourage it by keeping the people without education?—I would educate them anyway. I would prefer to give them a chance, they never had a chance before.

19478. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you done any work at all in the embroidery line?—Oh, yes. In Donegal they have sprigging classes. In Ardara, for instance, we have it, and are doing fairly. Of course, it is competing with the lace in Ardara. But just at present, on account of the linen business being extremely good, the demand for that class of work is large, the wages to be earned are good, and that in the case of Donegal results in the lace industry. Of course, the Board is glad to see any other industry competing that causes variety of employment. Competition prevents stagnation, when one branch of trade is depressed another may be better.

19479. Can you tell us anything in the line of art embroidery?—Yes; in South Kintyre there are classes for art embroidery. At Carrington in County Donegal there is a class started by the Board, and now carried on by Miss Hulton. She turns out beautiful work, and appears to get a fairly ready sale for it. She employs a number of girls. Sometimes girls like that class of work very much more than plain embroidery because of the colour and the artistic design. It attracts them more than plain embroidery of handkerchiefs, pillow cases, and bed aprons.

19480. It was stated it was difficult to get a market for such high-class goods?—They don't find it so in South Kintyre. I think the present difficulty of selling the production at Carrington is due to the fact that what is produced in Carrington is not known. It wants to be advertised and put before the public.

19481. Have you a class in drawn thread work?—Yes, at Ardara. In addition to the various Industrial and Technical Classes carried on by the Board since 1895, financial assistance was given at the suggestion of the Board's work to the Farnham Woollen Mills and Ballaghaderreen Hosiery Industry. Messrs. A. Morton and Co., Darvel, Argyshire, were induced by the Board to commence what was a new industry in Ireland, namely, the making of hand-ousted carpets in Donegal. There are now four factories at work on these carpets at Killybegs, Kilecar, Cully, and Anagarry, and these factories afford a very considerable amount of employment in the districts where they are situated.

19482. Mr. SUMMERLAND.—What are the conditions on which you co-operate with Messrs. Morton?—The only condition whatever was a cash payment to the four factories of a total value of £3,040.

19483. Altogether?—Yes. Each factory must have cost Messrs. Morton about £3,000 all round.

19484. They are the proprietors of all these?—Yes; of the four. They simply keep the workers employed.

19485. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What was the financial

Feb. 16, 1907.

Mr. W. J. D. Wolman

Feb. 24, 1907.
Mr W. J. D.
Walker.

assistance given, and under what conditions, to the Foxford Woollen Mills?—Foxford got a grant of £4,333, and in connection with the mill rose, £1,164.

19488. When was that?—It was very early in the history of the Board. I was not connected with the Board then.

19489. It was previous to 1911?—It was.

19490. You were not then connected with the Board, but, I suppose, we will get the figures?—Yes.

19491. What were the conditions by way of loan?—In addition to that there was a loan repayable by instalments, and I think the great bulk of that is paid off.

19492. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The initial expenditure was in connection with the buildings?—Yes.

19493. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—I call for that information.

19494. Mr. BRYCE.—It is in the ordinary Reports. We have had in the Reports year by year the exact financial position?—There was a capital amount given to Foxford, in addition to that loan, and the great bulk of the loan is paid off.

19495. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—As regards the capital advanced, the only assistance given consisted of advances for the erection of buildings?—Yes.

19496. Do you consider Messrs. Morton have conferred great advantages on these localities in Donegal?

—They are giving employment to everyone who wants it, as far as I know. They are more or less handicapped because in that industry they are competing with native Indian labour. Mr. Morton was very frank when he started it. He said the wages would not be high. On the other hand, if you take Anagarry and Cully, the amount of wages spread over these districts is certainly £2,500 a year, and that is worth a great deal in that portion of the country, and when you add Killybegs and Killybegs it would be much more. The wages, I expect, are about £5,400 a year for the four places.

19497. So far as wages are concerned, Mr. Morton has endeavoured to carry out his original undertaking?—I believe he has when you consider the conditions with which he has to compete.

19498. Mr. BRYCE.—It is not only against the native Indian labour he has to compete, but also against the unpaid guest labour?—There are many guests in India, such as that of Lahore, where large numbers of carpets are made by guest labour without payment of wages.

19499. Mr. KAVANAGH.—If Mr. Morton closed his concern to whom would the premises belong?—The buildings of Anagarry and Cully factories would belong to the Board, but the entire outlay of the Board in connection with Killybegs and Killybegs was only £200, of which part was for the site.

19500. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You will hand in tables with regard to local taxation?—Yes,* of different cases of local taxation in two well-off districts as compared with five poorly-off districts and with the local taxation upon land and upon other hereditaments for five years from 1900-1 to 1904-5. The relative circumstances of the districts are best shown by means of a penny in the £ raised. In one of these districts, for instance, Navan—a penny in the £ raises £208 as against Glenties, where a penny in the £ only yields £62. Then you will observe that while in Navan, for instance, for the year 1904-5 the rate upon land was 1s. 11d. and upon other hereditaments, 3s. 4d., in Glenties the rates were 4s. 10d. on land and 7s. 8d. on other hereditaments; if you take Cahir-green the rates on land were 4s. 5d. and on other hereditaments 7s. 2d.

19501. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Why do you take Navan?—Because it is a well-off union on the other side of Ireland.

19502. In the County Meath?—Yes.

19503. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your point is that it requires a much higher poundage rate in the poorer districts to raise the same amount of money?—Yes, and that that again would have an effect upon the housing of the people in many of the poorer districts. On account of the rates being so high people have a strong objection to improve their houses, as the increase in taxation is abnormal.

19504. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are the rates increased on them if they improve their houses?—Certainly.

Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—It is only on buildings that the valuation varies.

19505. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The valuation does not rise on land; it goes up on houses?—It can go up any height on houses or other hereditaments.

19506. Are houses and land separate for valuation purposes?—Yes.

19507. For valuation purposes?—Yes, there are two columns, one is taxation upon land and the other taxation upon buildings or other hereditaments.

19508. How was this problem of taxation in Ireland affected by the passing of the Local Government Act?—In this way—there are grants-in-aid in relief of taxation.

19509. A certain amount of the taxation was remitted?—Quite so; grants-in-aid in relief of local taxation in Glenties Union would be 1s. 3d. per head; in Navan it would be 5s. 8d., so the district that wanted it most got best, and the district that could do without it got most. I propose to put in a table from the Royal Commission on Local Taxation Ministry Report giving these figures very clearly.

19510. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I may be wrong, but my impression was that after the passing of the Local Government Act certain taxation was taken away altogether or remitted?—

Mr. KAVANAGH.—No grants-in-aid were given.

19511. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Well, it is all the same; grants-in-aid were given of certain taxation over and above?—Yes, but the amount is on the valuation, and it does not discriminate with regard to poverty.

19512. But it was increased, was it not?—Yes, I think it was.

19513. So that the proportion paid by the Imperial Grant compared with other parts is higher in Ireland than in England or Scotland?—I don't think so.

19514. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your point is that this subvention in aid of local taxation for certain services, such as the medical service under the poor law should be so arranged as to result in equal poundage rates for those services all over the country?—Yes; at present it is arranged in such a way that the incidence of taxation falls more heavily upon the poorer districts than upon the better off districts.

19515. Take, for instance, one of those poor unions. In order to get the salary of the medical officer of one of those poor unions a much higher poundage rate should be raised than in the rich union. Is that your point?—Yes.

19516. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The point I wish to bring out is this—that while it does or does not have regard to poundage, the subvention is higher in Ireland than in England or Scotland?—I have no figures upon that, and don't know.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Undoubtedly if we were comparing the local taxation of Ireland, England and Scotland you should go into that question, but we are not comparing them.

Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You cannot, as a matter of fact, compare any valuation in Ireland with England or Scotland, because in England and Scotland the valuation is up-to-date?—Yes, but Ireland has got in addition to that matter a grant for local taxation; in Scotland a certain proportion was set aside to meet it.

19517. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Yes, but Ireland has got in addition to that matter a grant for local taxation; in Scotland a certain proportion was set aside to meet it.

19518. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—I want to ask you just one or two general questions. You are head of that branch of the Congested Districts Board that deals with industries?—Yes.

19519. And all those places that are coloured on the maps are under your observation, and are really under your personal care?—Yes.

19520. What staff have you got?—I have one clerk. 19521. Now, a great deal of your work is in visiting these places?—Yes; it should be, but at present very much of my time is taken up with correspondence. I have not time to go round the districts and attend to the correspondence now. It is getting beyond my resources, and my work is getting behind.

19522. That is, that the work of correspondence and personal inspection cannot be done; it is getting beyond you and you have to sacrifice one for the other?—Yes; I have not been able to pay nearly the attention I would wish to the districts. My time is taken up with the correspondence.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And Royal Commissioners?—

19523. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Is it not a matter of very great importance that you should have opportunities of inspection?—I don't suppose any changes will be made until after this Commission reports.

19524. It is in reference to the report of the Commission that I ask this question?—Yes.

19525. The present position is that you have nobody to assist you but a clerk?—Yes.

19526. What is his salary?—About 35s. per week.

*See page 171.

19533. Is he temporary?—Yes, temporary.

19534. Well, now, in order to make a tour of inspection, what distance have you to cover?—From the top of Donegal to the bottom of Kerry and Cork. I have never made it up my mileage, except for one six months, ending June last. I travelled in that period 1,500 miles on cars, and 3,000 miles in trains.

19535. In six months?—Yes.

19536. I suppose it is necessary for you to visit these places in the winter as well as in the summer?—Oh, yes; I have never sat a day in a hotel on account of the weather.

19537. To carry on your work of inspection you must carry it on in the winter as well as in the summer, in the short days as well as in the long ones?—Yes.

19538. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Sir John himself has done his inspection in all weathers so far?—Yes.

19539. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Covering these long distances you drive on hired cars?—Yes, outside cars. Of course it is a very big drawback, and I feel recently that I cannot keep up with all the work on account of too much correspondence. One becomes very much interested in the work; but it takes a great deal of time.

19540. You have had to travel 1,500 miles in six months calculating June. Have you ever calculated the total cost of the cars?—Well, I am charged all sorts of prices; sometimes sixpence a mile, and sometimes 1s. per mile on a journey.

19541. Have you ever calculated the whole amount?—No; the average is about eight or ten pence per mile.

19542. Have you ever calculated that for the sake of economy the work could be done much cheaper by travelling in a motor?—Yes, I believe it would be, I believe it would save a great deal of hotel expenses, because I could do the work in a much shorter time, but I don't know that the Treasury regulations are such that it would pay me to take a motor instead of a car. On the other hand, if the scale of the Treasury allowances were such as would cover the cost of motoring I consider they would save it in hotel payments, and I believe it would be a much more easy and efficient way to inspect the districts.

19543. The duties of inspection and the duties of correspondence would be much more quickly done if you had better facilities for getting about?—Yes, because many of these districts are so very far away.

19544. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are they away from railways?—I think I have only two classes near railway stations.

Sir JOHN CONNOR.—And it is places most remote from railway stations that demand most attention.

19545. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Just tell me what money the Board devote to your department a year?—It is not specially earmarked, except in the estimates. I think the amount spent on all classes—cooking, laundry, domestic economy, lace, embroidery, knitting, manual instruction, and weaving classes, &c., &c., with rent, fire, light, and including repairs of houses, building school-rooms, &c., comes to between £9,500 and £10,000.

19546. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have something to do with nursing schemes?—Yes; I should like to say with regard to that that Lady Dudley's Fund for supplying nurses in the poorest parts of Ireland has been of enormous service in these districts. There are thirteen nurses in the poorest places from Donegal to Kerry, and these nurses are having a very great influence in improving the condition of the people, because the nurses freely talk to the people about sanitation, and the relation between dirt and disease, and in every way they have been most useful; not only that, but they have saved a vast number of very valuable lives. Of course a great deal of their work is with regard to maternity cases. All the districts in which nurses are stationed are very poor and populous, and a great number of people come under their care. The nurses are absolutely essential. The Board have assisted Lady Dudley's scheme by building houses for nurses where no suitable house could be obtained.

19547. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You spoke of Lady Dudley's scheme. Of course that work is not carried on by Lady Dudley as a separate scheme, but carried on under the Queen's Nurses' Scheme?—Yes, it is affiliated with that scheme, but Lady Dudley originated, organised, and works the scheme relating to

the finding and supporting of trained nurses in these very poor places, and collected all the money for the purpose.

19548. And it has come to be called Lady Dudley's scheme?—Yes; the Board have assisted in one or two cases in building houses. There are some districts where a house could not be got for the nurse, and the Board have advanced £300 to £500 for building a house, but the nursing Fund pays 2½ per cent. upon that.

19549. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—It was advanced by way of loan?—Yes, by way of loan.

19550. The nurses are not employed by the Board?—No, they are employed under the Lady Dudley Nursing Fund.

19551. In places where houses could not be got the Board built a house and rented it to the nursing institutions?—Yes.

19552. How many of these houses are there?—There is one in Anagry, and one at Arranmore Island, Co. Donegal; one at Castala, County Mayo; one at Cahinchessell, and one at Doober, County Kerry; one at Glengarriff, County Cork, and the Board are about to build two more, one near Beaufort, and one at Spiddal, County Galway.

19553. Does that come under your department?—Well, I procure the loan for them, and generally look after the building of the house, and generally call on the nurses in passing.

19554. I would like to ask you this—in your experience of the Congested Districts, have you not found the extraordinary beneficial influence of the presence of trained nurses to the poverty-stricken districts?—No language I could use would adequately describe the value of these nurses in these districts. They have saved the lives of the people right, left, and centre.

19555. And elevated and promoted all that is good in the lives of the people?—Yes, where you get a highly-trained nurse she is very valuable.

19556. With your experience from the practical results of your own observation, don't you think it would be a most important step, as a preliminary step to improvement in these very remote districts with congested populations, that that system should be very largely extended?—Yes, but the difficulty is at this moment want of funds. The thirteen nurses absorb the entire sum available, and of course it is all private subscription collected by Lady Dudley, but I do hope that ultimately, with the recent report of the Poor Law Commission, and in connection with the possible abolition of the workhouse system, nursing of that sort will take the place in many districts of part of the workhouse system.

19557. I mean from the point of view of a preliminary step towards preparing the population to be receptive of further effort, in all those Congested Districts, would not the extension of this system be a great benefit, and would it not increase the receptivity of the population preparatory to other measures?—Yes, it would be most valuable. Everyone of these things converging upon the improvement of the population—nursing schemes, sanitation, industrial development, domestic economy—everyone of them go in the same direction, and with time and patience a very great deal will be effected.

19558. You cannot, I suppose, answer this question whether it is within the province of the Board to take active steps towards providing houses, for instance, for the Queen's nurses if that body provided the nurses?—It is; and that is just one of the valuable things in connection with the Congested Districts Board, that in comparison with the Local Government Board, or the Department, or the Board of Works, or any other department, they are able to assist if they see that a scheme of that sort is for the benefit of the population; they are not tied down by rules like the other departments.

19559. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is that enumerated in their powers as one of the functions that they can exercise?—The ability of the Board to contribute to that is, I think, within the powers of the Board, and within the scope of its work.

19560. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What they do is to give money at a very low rate of interest for the building?—Yes.

19561. And they consider their co-operation in regard to the nursing establishments is thoroughly justified, and hence to add them has ever been the policy of the Board?—I would go further and say that a

Feb 15, 1907.

Mr. W. J. D. Walker.

Feb. 15, 1907.
Mr. W. J. D.
Walker.

substantial contribution to the nursing in very poor districts would be well within the power of the Board in improving the condition of the poor in those districts.

18561. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Board has very great latitude in the use of its funds subject to a wise discretion?—Yes.

18562. It may pay wages?—Yes.

18563. Where you work side by side with the Department has there been any overlapping?—There have been one or two cases of overlapping. In isolated cases the Department went and did work that the Congested Districts Board were doing. But if the Department came into districts where the Congested Districts Board was doing work and did the same work, they possibly knew of it. If I knew of any case in which the Department was spending money I never would propose to the Board to spend a half-penny of money in that town, village, or district. I would be very glad that the work of the Board should be supplemented by the Department, but I would make myself scarce in that district. I never would suggest to the Board that they should do what the Department was already doing in the same district. On the other hand, I don't consider that the schemes of the Department, as worked by the County Councils are likely to have the same beneficial effects as the schemes of the Congested Districts Board. The Department recently supplied the Board with a list of Domestic Economy Classes that they had in Congested Districts. I find that the average duration of these classes is six weeks. I don't think it is the slightest use so go round to these districts carrying on Domestic Economy Classes for six weeks. You leave just as the girls are getting interested, and in that way the short system of Domestic Economy of the Department fails to produce any effect except that when you go to a village where the Department has had a six weeks course the girls think they know all about it or all they could get in a four months course. So far as they are concerned the short term of instruction is really harmful.

18564. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you mean to say that the Congested Districts Board and the Department hold classes in the same localities?—Where under the County Councils there is a Technical Instruction Scheme they raise a penny in the £ rate, and that rate is raised in congested as well as non-congested districts, and the congested as well as the non-congested want value for their money. The amount of money raised for the purpose is so small, and the instruction is spread over such a large area and for such a short period that you don't produce the same results.

18565. No, but the fact remains that your Board and the Department are holding classes in the same localities?—No; there were only two cases of overlapping. The cases are very few as a rule.

18566. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There is practically no overlapping?—It is not the fault of the Congested Districts Board, because in every case the Vice-President gets the Board's printed notices and knows where we are working.

18567. There is ample room for both?—Oh, yes; I think so.

18568. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Still, the two bodies are doing the same work?—The two bodies are doing more or less similar work. The Congested Districts Board, of course, began it.

18569. Who are the Public Health authorities?—The local sanitary authorities.

18570. I mean the central?—The Local Government Board.

18571. Have they any scheme of nursing?—I think in cases where the Guardians contribute they have maternity nurses in districts.

18572. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That is in every dispensary district?—Yes; but there are many dispensary districts of the West where there is nothing of the sort.

18573. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there no scheme of general nursing?—No; but I think they will work up to that in connection with the scheme for the abolition of workhouses.

18574. Have the Public Health Authorities powers to have nurses?—I think they have power to have midwives.

18575. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—And nurses in the hospitals and infirmaries?—Yes.

18576. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But not general nurses?—No.

18577. It is essential in laying down this scheme

that the nurses should be thoroughly trained?—It is essential to produce an effect in these districts.

18578. The local Public Health Authority in Scotland pay for the parish nurse and keep her?—Yes.

18579. Mr. BYRNE.—Have you found any clashing between the local medical officers and the nurses?—I think we have been remarkably free from that. I think you will generally find that the doctors are glad to have the assistance of a trained nurse. The nursing scheme has got on very well, and as a general rule the doctors are very glad to avail of the assistance of the nurses.

18580. In what extent of radius do the nurses operate?—In a radius of six miles.

18581. Six miles, and there are thirteen nurses in the Congested Districts?—Yes.

18582. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—The nurse is not supposed to go outside three miles unless certified is provided?—Lady Dudley's nurses have no rule of that kind. I have known one to go seven miles.

18583. At her own expense?—She would bicycle, as a rule.

18584. Lady Dudley's nurses are a branch of the Queen's, and act under the same rules. Under these rules she need not go beyond three miles?—I have known nurses go beyond the distance in scattered districts, but it was to save life.

18585. Mr. BYRNE.—Are they entitled to charge anything for it?—No.

18586. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I think the lady that gave evidence in Barmore said she was not confined to Arran?—She is at Annagary.

18587. I think she went long distances?—She has 3,000 people within a seven-mile radius. The map produced relates to valuation per head of the population. The electoral divisions coloured blue average below 10s. per head of the population. There are twelve such areas in Donegal, nine in Mayo, and six in Galway. The electoral divisions coloured green are over 10s. and under 15s. per head valuation. There are no electoral divisions coloured blue or green in Sligo, Leitrim, or Cork. There is no electoral division coloured blue in Kerry, and only one division coloured green, namely, Bandon, on the north of the Dingle peninsula. The yellow is between 15s. and 20s., and the brown between 20s. and 30s. All the electoral divisions coloured red are over 30s. per head of the population. They were scheduled originally, but on account of emigration the Poor Law valuation per head of the population has gone up. There are now 118 electoral divisions in which the valuation per head is 30s. and over.

18588. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—The change in the ratio of the population has raised the valuation per head, but they still remain part of the congested districts?—Quite so.

18589. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In the division of Annagary the valuation would be 4s. 1d. per head of the population?—Yes.

18590. Mr. BYRNE.—Do you have anything to do with other schemes of industry, for instance, bee-keeping, and so on?—No. But Mr. O'Byrne was formerly employed by the Board as instructor in bee-keeping. He is a most valuable man; he is now engaged with the Department of Agriculture. They took over all the work in connection with agriculture.

18591. Do you ever have anything to do with agricultural work, promoting agricultural work, and that sort of thing?—No.

18592. Going about in these districts you must have had an opportunity of judging. Have you formed any impression as to whether that kind of work is as well done by the Department now as it formerly was by the Congested Districts Board?—It is not nearly as well done. They have not anything like the same amount of money to spend. I have heard a great many complaints about the Department's neglect, but I attribute that more to the want of money to spend than to anything else. The Board spent far more money on agricultural matters in the Congested Districts than the Department of Agriculture has done.

18593. Have you got an impression that unless the thing is properly done it is not worth doing it at all?—My impression is that if you spend money upon a thing you must spend sufficient money if you want to make it efficient.

18594. Therefore, you don't think the flying visits of itinerant teachers on bicycles much good?—I have as experience of it, because I have been too busy to look into it. But you don't want to skin over their heads with a feather brush in the congested districts.

FORTY-FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 1907.

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.

At Winchester House, 21 St. James' Square, London, S.W.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMB, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ARTHUR SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CARRAN, Esq., Secretary.

Professor J. R. CAMPBELL examined.

19585. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (in the Chair).—Will you kindly tell us when you were appointed and the period during which you have held office, and previous to your appointment what was the nature of your experience?—I was appointed in the autumn of 1900. Previous to that I was Professor and Director of Agricultural Education in the Yorkshire College, a constituent college of the Victoria University.

19586. You have handed in a Memorandum, and you have given us a synopsis of the general headings of your evidence.* What would be the most convenient course for you to take with regard to the Memorandum?—I think I ought to read a part of my Memorandum—only a portion of it. You will see that it is a connected statement of the evidence in regard to agricultural development given before the Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Department of Agriculture. In giving evidence before that Committee I had no Memorandum prepared, and in order to make the statement as clear as possible I think I ought to read portion of that.

19587. Then, proceed with the Memorandum, and I will ask the Commission if they want any explanations with regard to any paragraph?—The Department consider it desirable to give evidence relating to the working of the agricultural branch under the following heads:—

- I. Agricultural work applicable to the whole country.
- II. Agricultural work applicable to counties partly congested; and
- III. The special needs of congested areas.

And here might I say at once that in speaking of the counties partly congested, I exclude Cork and Clare. The portion of Clare which is scheduled as congested is so small that it would not affect the statement, and Cork is so large, being a tenth of all Ireland, and only a very small portion of it being congested, that if you compare the work done in the congested and non-congested parts I think that perhaps it should be omitted.

19588. You omit Cork and Clare because the congested area is so very small?—Yes. The Agricultural Branch of the Department was started in the autumn of 1900. The first duty of the staff was that of attending meetings of County Councils, explaining to them the provisions of the Act and the steps to be taken to put it into operation; obtaining and considering suggestions both in private and in public as to what the Department should do for agricultural development, and making acquaintance with the people whom the Act was intended to benefit. Advantage was taken of these visits to study the peculiarities of Irish agriculture in respect of the size of the holdings, the farm buildings, the tillage of the land, the crops grown, the class of stock raised, and the condition of dairying, horticulture, and poultry-keeping. regard was had also to the social position of the farmer himself, his business methods, capital, general and technical education, and to some extent his aspirations. The conclusions arrived at after this preliminary study of the conditions under which the Department had to work may be summarized as follows:—(1.) That the

most important work which the Department had to perform was that of laying the foundation of a permanent system of agricultural education. The immediate introduction of a system of agricultural education such as exists in other countries was seen to be impracticable, as in the first instance the conditions of agriculture in Ireland and the circumstances of the farmers differed from those of most other countries, particularly with respect to the size of the farms, the ability of the farmer to pay fees, the desire of most young men to leave the land, the desire for an agricultural education and the backwardness of tillage in some districts; while, in the second place, no provision had been made in Ireland for the training of teachers. (2.) That in the application of the Department's Endowment to aid in the development of agriculture it was desirable as far as practicable to work through the local authorities. It was further considered desirable to commence with a subject in which everybody could take part, and which everybody understood—namely, the improvement of live stock. (3.) That a large number of the proposed projects on which the country desired the Department to embark would in the first instance have to be undertaken by the Department's officers themselves, afterwards gradually transferring the work and the funds necessary for carrying it on to the local authorities.

19589. Sir JOHN COLOMB.—Did you attend the initial meetings referred to?—As many as possible myself.

19590. Before you attended these meetings had you a general knowledge of Ireland?—I had not.

19591. When you were attending these meetings you were new to the conditions prevailing in Ireland?—I was.

19592. You picked it up as you went on?—Yes. I did not go to them all. The chief inspector and myself devoted our whole time to the work.

19593. You were not taking a general survey of Ireland in order to get an acquaintance with the enormously different conditions of agriculture in Ireland and in Yorkshire?—Yes. I had previously, however, for my own private information, travelled through Ireland, but that was not official work at all.

19594. How often you did that you visited the congested districts?—Oh, yes; I stayed in the West, and studied all the West of Ireland before that. That was privately. Now I go into the division of the work in the agricultural branch of the Department—first, that which is administered jointly by the local authorities and the Department.

19595. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (after a short consultation with the other Commissioners).—The Commission have been considering how we could best spare you a detailed recitation of each of the paragraphs in your Memorandum. As regards the administrative power, that part which deals with it has been in substance, and to a considerable extent, before Sir Kenneth Digby's Committee in Ireland. Of course, we shall put the whole of this Memorandum verbatim into the appendix to our report, and, therefore, it appears to us that it would be necessary to take you through that portion of the Memorandum, as it will enable us to pay more

Feb. 12, 1907

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

* See p. 179 et seq.

Feb. 18, 1897.
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Professor J.
R. Campbell.

detailed attention to the rest. If in the course of the Memorandum there is any particular point which you think has not been before that Committee, or on which you wish to say something additional, the Commission, of course, will be glad to hear you.—The important thing is to understand the first part. I am afraid that the second part would be unintelligible unless you had the system of administration pointed jointly by the local authorities and the Department explained. We might have to go back constantly to the first.

1896. I think that will be the better plan, when we come to any recommendation. You must recollect that we have had a great deal of evidence on the work of the Department indirectly. When we come to the second part, and you desire to refer back to anything which would further explain your recommendations and evidence, then the Commission will be very glad to go back, and refer to the particular paragraph.—Well, I think that at any rate there are one or two of the early pages of that that it would be well to read—for example, the division of the work between the Department and the local authorities; and if there was a sketch of a year's work with the local authorities, that would give the Commission an idea of the system.

1897. Sir JOHN COLMER.—You are aware that we have already had Sir Horace Plunkett before the Commission, who gave us a general outline of the administration of the Department.—I am not sure that he went into any question of detail in regard to the administration of the local authorities.

1898. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think he did. But tell us the pages you propose to read.—The division of work, page 2. Then to page 3 and page 4; in fact if I read to page 5, omitting some of the paragraphs, that will give some indication of the system pursued. Then comes agricultural education, on page 5.

1899. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Let us begin with page 2, and perhaps you can greatly summarise it. The division of work is the first point.—Yes. I should like to read this, because it gives the system on which we work, and without it the rest would be unintelligible.

1900. We will try how that plan would work.—Then I shall refer to the division of the work—first, that which is administered jointly by the local authorities and the Department; and, secondly, that which is administered by the Department directly from the central office. Generally speaking, when the work is such that the county can be made the unit for the purposes of administration, and particularly where such an arrangement would enable each district to receive benefits proportionate to its contribution, the administration of the scheme is delegated to the local authority; such, for example, is the procedure adopted with schemes for encouraging improvement in live stock and schemes of itinerant instruction in various branches of agriculture. On the other hand, work for which the county could be conveniently made the unit, and which does not apply equally to the whole county, is administered directly from the Department's office, such, for example, as the investigation of special outbreaks of diseases of stock, the encouragement of improvement in the management of estates, and other forms of work, which are detailed in this Memorandum further on. Now there is a paragraph as to the functions of the local authorities. The local authorities are the County Councils, of which there are thirty-three. Each Council, however, for the purposes of the Department's work, appoints a Committee of Agriculture composed partly of members of the Council, and partly of other persons. To this Committee the Council usually delegates full powers, subject to the approval of the Department, for the administration of the funds placed at its disposal. The County Council alone can raise a rate for the purposes of the Act. In some cases this rate is 1d. in the pound, in others ½d. The smallest amount estimated as being raised by a county this year is £538 (½d. rate in County Waterford), and the highest £2,116 (½d. rate in County Cork). The total amount raised over Ireland for the current year is £35,948, and the total sum allocated by County Committees out of the rates for agricultural schemes is £31,923, or an average of nearly £1,000 per county. The amount raised by the county rate is usually transferred by the County Council to the County Committee to be applied by them, subject to the approval of the

Department, partly to schemes of agriculture and partly to schemes of technical instruction. In a few cases the amount to be spent on agriculture and on technical instruction respectively is specified by the County Council. In the majority of cases, however, it is left to the County Committee to decide the proportions. In the first year thirty-one out of thirty-three County Councils raised a rate and appointed Committees for the purposes of the Act. Every year since all the thirty-three Councils have done so. The relations between the Department and these Committees are very satisfactory indeed. In the first years, when the procedure was not well understood, there were administrative difficulties and delays; but all these have been largely, if not altogether, overcome, and an excellent understanding has for some years existed between the leading members of the Committees and the officers of the Department, who are constantly in conference, either at the local meetings or at the office of the Department, to discuss the details of and the arrangements for carrying out the work. Individuals have felt aggrieved owing to the action of the Committee itself, or of the Department, but this is inevitable where public funds are distributed among farmers to encourage improvement in their methods. So far as is in their power the Department have fairly met the wishes of the Committees. Not only are the Committees in constant communication with the central office, but each Committee is invited by the Department to submit its views on the working of the schemes before the commencement of each agricultural year. Suggestions made by County Committees have not only been considered, but, in the great majority of cases, have been adopted. If a County Committee considers itself aggrieved by some action of the Department, the Committee can have their grievance ventilated through the Council of Agriculture, a body appointed specially for this purpose, and to whom the Department must answer if it ignores public opinion. Now I will take a year's work of administration jointly by local authorities and the Department. Now this is important with regard to the second division of the Memorandum, because it shows how the Department works. The agricultural year commences in autumn.

1901. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There are two questions I should like to ask you on the last paragraph, but perhaps, with the permission of the Chairman, that would be done at page 51.—(Of course).—The agricultural year commences in autumn. Early in summer—in June usually—the Department circulates all the County Committees, inviting their views on the work of the previous year. The views of the Department's inspectors who have been in touch with the leading members and with the officers of the Committees are also obtained. These suggestions are then considered by the Department, and where there are any national interests to safeguard and where expert advice is helpful advisory committees of experts are called in to assist the Department in their deliberations. The advisory committees are those dealing with horses, cattle and swine, fairs, tobacco, and forestry. The views of the County Committees are laid before these committees, and an outline programme is then prepared. Unless in very special cases all details are left for each local authority to settle as it sees fit. Early in August these outline schemes are explained to, and laid before, the Agricultural Board, with a statement of the amount of money which it is estimated will be required from the Department's funds (1) to meet the cost of central administration, and (2) to meet the Department's contribution to the funds of the County Committees. When the necessary funds have been voted by the Agricultural Board a conference at the Department's office of secretaries of County Committees has usually been held to discuss any new provision in the schemes, and to arrange dates for meetings of the Committees, which are attended by the Department's inspectors for the purpose of assisting in arranging details of the programme and finances for the ensuing agricultural year. As soon as each County Committee has decided on the scheme which it proposes to put into operation, and has provisionally allocated funds therefor, the secretary notifies the Department, who then intimate their approval as well as the maximum of their contribution for the year.

1902. Sir JOHN COLMER.—You say, "These suggestions are then considered by the Department, and where there are any national interests to safeguard and where expert advice is helpful, advisory committees of experts

are called in." Now I want to ask you with respect to the cattle industry, has the probable effect of the breaking up of grass land on the economic stability of the small holders of Ireland been considered?—Not by our Advisory Committee. It has been discussed at the Council of Agriculture generally, but there has been nothing of this referred to the Committee on cattle breeding. Now, where the County Committee and its secretary are alive to the interests of the county, the work is usually in full swing by October, except, of course, such sections of it as depend on the seasons. The appointment of local or district sub-committees who see that the district they represent takes full advantage of the schemes, is a most important factor in ensuring the success of the work. The Department have urged the appointment of such sub-committees to assist the statutory committee, and hope that still more use will be made of them in future years. County Committees of Agriculture meet, as a rule, once a month. An already stated, a representative of the Department always attends the first meeting, and subsequent ones as often as possible. Two sets of minutes of proceedings at these meetings are forwarded to the Department—one general and one financial. The general minutes deal with correspondence with the Department, the work of the Committee for the past and ensuing month, and resolutions involving changes in or fresh expenditure under the schemes for which the approval of the Department is sought. The financial minutes contain a statement of payments ordered to be made, and are accompanied by the actual accounts. When the Department have examined and satisfied themselves as to the correctness of these accounts they signify this fact to the secretary of the Committee, and forward their proportion of the cost to the local treasurer. In the early years the Department recognised County Committees one-half the cost of each piece of work, except in the case of a number of the poorer counties, where the proportion was increased to five-eighths. At present, and for the last three years the Department's contribution has been three-fifths of the actual cost of each scheme undertaken in the poorer counties, and five-ninths in all other counties. I should say that there are other expenditures in connection with the administration of the Department—the cost of judging at shows, etc.

19604. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Before you pass from that can you give me a general idea of what you mean to convey to the Commissioners by the phrase "piece of work"?—A general scheme, it might be improvement of live stock, or education or something else. Then the question of adjusting the expenditure of the Department's Endowment so that each county will receive its fair proportion is one which has received a great deal of consideration. The necessity for limiting the amount of the Department's contribution and the funds of County Committees is only now beginning to be felt, since owing to the simultaneous action of the thirty-three counties it has not been possible for any one Committee to advantageously spend much more than what might be regarded as its normal income from the rates and from the Department. For example, nearly every county has been ready to employ the services of an agricultural instructor, but owing to the sudden demand for such officers and the fact that they have not been available up to the present, several Committees have been unable to undertake expenditure under this head. Any unexpended balance of the rate has remained in the hands of the Committee; while the unexpended balance of the Department's Endowment has been retained and invested for the purpose of erecting and equipping agricultural institutions.

19605. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Well, the unexpended balance is lost finally to the country then?—The unexpended balance of the sum which has been sanctioned in the early part of the year remains in the hands of the Department for the benefit of future schemes.

19606. You say "invested for the purpose of erecting and equipping agricultural institutions," that is that the money is invested, awaiting an application for the purpose?—Yes. Then I may pass on to the bottom of page five, where I refer to the amounts of money that have been spent on schemes, and first of all I might perhaps refer to the Joint Fund.

Sir FRANCES MOWAT.—I should like to take the

opportunity of saying that I don't think we are getting any farther.

19607. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is all this information relating to the congested districts?—It is information relating to the system of administration adopted by the Department, which is applicable to congested as well as non-congested districts.

19608. That is, it applies to congested districts?—It does. Then at the bottom of page five I refer to the amount of money which has been spent by County Committees, and there you will see that the point that I want to emphasise is the increase that has taken place, so showing that these schemes have been appreciated, and are rapidly developing, and in order to make it plain I have prepared a diagram to give you a general idea of what the rate of progress has been, and on reading the paragraph you will see that that example represents the amount of work done and the amount of money spent by the County Committees in 1900-01.

19609. That is including the joint rate and contribution?—Yes; that is the joint fund, which is composed of the rate, and the Department's contribution, and this will show you the rate at which the expenditure has increased from year to year. This is up to the current year. Of course the current year is only an estimate, but up to the last year it shows it accurately.

19610. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then in the first years there were several unexpended balances?—Yes. The Department had a surplus of savings in the first year.

19611. The first few years?—Yes.

19612. Can you tell me the amount?—We are now expending considerably more. The estimate is considerably beyond the income. Of course, we are drawing on the surplus for this amount.

19613. In fact, the surplus of the past years?—Exactly. Then, the next question refers to education.

19614. Mr. BRYCE.—I think it is an important thing, and I think it is desirable to hear this?—(Witness).—Of all the agricultural problems which the Department have had to solve, that of gradually leading Irish farmers to appreciate an education for their sons, who are to succeed them, has been the most difficult, and has needed the most attention. It did not require a prolonged study of the conditions of agriculture in Ireland to show that there is good reason why it would be impracticable at once to introduce methods which have proved successful in other countries. It is unnecessary to describe the provision made in Ireland for agricultural education before the creation of the Department of Agriculture. Suffice it to say that up to that time such education was provided by the Commissioners of National Education. At one time agricultural education was given at a large number of public institutions, and in National schools. At the time of the formation of the Department, for one reason or another, all these institutions had been abandoned, with the exception of the Albert Training Institute, Glasnevin, and the Munster Institute, Cork.

19615. Why was it that they were given up by the National Education Commissioners?—I am afraid that I am not in a position to give you that, because it was really before I had much to do with the subject.

19616. We have not had anybody before us on this subject. I suppose you have heard why it was?—Well, there is a reference to it in the Reces Committee's Report which I might refer you to—I do not know whether you have got that report before you or not—which explains one reason, at any rate. Of course there was an objection taken to the expenditure of money on the training of men who would probably become land stewards and land agents and so on.

19617. Do you mean that that applies to the case of a child of a poor farmer or small holder in a congested district, that if he got an agricultural education he was going to become a land steward?—Well, it applies to some of the large institutions, at any rate.

19618. I am rather talking of the National schools?—Well, in the National schools I myself believe that in the first place there was very little sympathy given to the subject.

19619. Why?—Owing largely to the reluctance of the Treasury to give funds for the purpose.

19620. But it was going on at all the National schools?—It was.

FEB. 14 1907

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 18, 1907.
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Professor J.
K. Campbell.

15621. Then, did the Treasury suddenly say "You shall stop agricultural education?"—Well, I do not think they did that, but they were not sympathetic.

15622. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In pursuance of Mr. Byrne's question, is it not the fact that under the influence of the opinions that then prevailed with regard to political economy the Treasury did then refuse the money?—Well, I could not say that.

Mr. Byrne.—It seems to me one of the most important questions in the whole thing, for it certainly comes within our reference, and I think it is really very desirable to get at the bottom of it—why it was that the general system of agricultural instruction in National schools was stopped. Is there anyone who can tell us?

15623. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Would you go so far as to say that there was agricultural instruction generally in the National schools?—I beg your pardon?

15624. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Mr. Byrne asked you why the teaching of agriculture in National schools generally was stopped, but is it the case that it was ever general in the National schools?—I should say it was. There was a very large number of the schools that taught agriculture.

15625. There was a portion of the schools, and there was certain assistance given, but was it ever general, or is it right to say that it was ever a system generally prevailing in the National schools?—Well, of course, I am not prepared to speak on the past policy of the National Education Commission or the National schools, but since 1838 there was a training school for agricultural teachers.

15626. And that remains, does not it?—That remains.

Mr. Byrne.—I was talking of what was done in the National schools.

15627. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was there an official syllabus of agricultural instruction drawn up by the National Education authorities that ought to be taught in the National schools?—I am sure there was. There were efforts made to introduce efficient instruction, but, the paragraph goes on: "These efforts ended in failure through the action of a public opinion other than that of Ireland. They had the misfortune to come into conflict with the extreme Free Trade doctrines then in the hey-day of their popularity in England. An agitation was originated by the Liverpool Reform Association against the newer agricultural system of the National Board of Education in Ireland." This is on page 3 of the Report Committee's Report. "This Association disputed the right of the State to train up farmers and stewards at the public cost. English free-traders in Parliament denounced the system. Sanchoir Chief Secretaries, when they came to Ireland, displayed their hostility against it."

15628. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What are you reading from?—I am reading from the Report Committee's Report, the Report of 1856. "Amongst these were Mr. Herbert, Mr. Cardwell, and Sir Robert Peel. Mr. Cardwell was specially energetic in his opposition to the agricultural instruction in the workhouse schools. No system could thrive under such conditions. As Sir Patrick Keenan puts it, 'It had been prescribed by Chief Secretary after Chief Secretary and had at all times to encounter the fiercest hostility of the Treasury.' " That, perhaps, is an answer to the question.

15629. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—The Report Committee was composed of voluntary associates of all creeds and parties to consider the outlook in Ireland?—Yes, that is so.

15630. And that is the opinion of these gentlemen?—Yes, but some of these words are those of Sir Patrick Keenan.

15631. But are we to understand that it is from an official source that you have been quoting, or are we to understand that what you read was the opinion of gentlemen associated together to consider the general outlook in Ireland. Let us understand?—Some of the words that I was reading are actual quotations.

15632. But would you give us the reference to the official publication that says that, so that we may get it on the record?—Well, you will find that in Sir Patrick Keenan's letter to the Royal Commission on Technical Instruction.

15633. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—A letter from him to the Commission?—Yes. And also in a letter to the Lord Lieutenant on Agricultural Education in Ireland by Sir Patrick Keenan.

15634. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Does it appear in any of the State papers?—That is an Irish State paper.

15635. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What period was Sir Patrick Keenan referring to?—The introduction of agricultural education began in 1838.

15636. That is rather old history, but give me the names of the series of Free Trade Chief Secretaries for the last fifteen or sixteen years. You have read out that it was the action of the Free Trade Chief Secretaries that was having this disastrous effect?—Yes.

15637. But do you know, for the last fifteen years, any Free Trade Chief Secretaries till this Government came in?—Well, I am not sure that I do know their views on free trade, but the latter portion of the question is an answer to the question why agricultural education did not succeed in the National schools.

15638. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Professor Campbell, a point that has not been made very clear and definite to my mind is the nature of the education that was given and to what extent it existed?—I am not prepared to answer that, but I may say that one of the fundamental mistakes made was this:—It was assumed that any person could teach agriculture, and I am afraid that many of the teachers did not have sufficient knowledge of the subject. That is one reason. Agricultural education has existed in Great Britain, too, for a long time under the Science and Art Department. It is merely a system of teaching from books.

15639. In special schools?—Yes.

15640. But Mr. Byrne's question referred to general National schools?—I was just going to say that that was probably the case in Ireland. I do not want to put it definitely, because I was not in Ireland at the time, and it was not my business to inquire into it. The Department was not charged with looking after the work of the National schools; but I feel sure that the reason I have given would be one, and I am sure that if the National school teachers themselves were not sufficiently instructed it was bound not to succeed.

15641. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But you were to think that both the money ought to have been given and the training with it at that stage in the National schools?—I do not quite follow.

15642. You seem to think that instead of money being withdrawn, which the Treasury had been supplying the money ought to have been continued, and training with it?—Yes.

15643. Mr. Byrne.—But I did not understand you, Professor Campbell, to express an opinion that the teaching should be given in National schools now?—I did not express that.

15644. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was that taught in National schools before?—Yes, it was.

15645. Not in a few special schools?—It was taught by the National schoolmaster.

15646. Generally over Ireland?—Yes.

15647. There they were more favoured than in any other place?—There was a system of agricultural education in schools for a long period.

15648. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—I want to ask you one question on this point. You say that all these institutions had been abandoned as Government institutions, with the exception of the Albert Training Institute, Glanerin, and the Munster Institute, Cork?—Yes.

15649. You are speaking of the Munster Dairy School?—Yes.

15650. Was not that institution the result of local effort and not a Government institution at all?—I do not quite follow your question.

15651. You say that all the institutions had been abandoned with the exception of the Albert Institute—that was a purely Government institution?—Yes.

15652. The Albert Institute, Glanerin, is a purely Government institution?—Yes, that is so.

15653. And you then refer to the Munster Institute, Cork, but that was the result of local enterprise?—And do you mean to say that the Munster Institute should have been abandoned also?

15654. No; I merely want to correct what I think needs correction when you say all those institutions were abandoned as institutions established by Government except them?—Except two.

15655. It ought to be two?—Well, it is two.

15656. You say, "and the Munster Institute, Cork"?—Oh, I beg your pardon; I think I understand you. There are two institutions, the Glanerin

Insitution and the Cork Institution. The Glasnevin one is called The Albert Training Institute. At that time the Cork one was called The Munster Institute. There were only two.

19547. My point is that one was established simply by Government and that the other was a local effort assisted by the Government—But very largely by the Government.

19552. Assisted, but it was established by a local Committee—I mean that the local Committee contributed a very small proportion of the funds compared to that of the Government—a very small fraction. Instruction had also been given in thirty-eight National schools by National teachers who had been trained at the Albert Institution, and who usually worked a farm in connection with the school. The Albert Institution and the Munster Institute were handed over to the Department, who were, however, precluded from giving agricultural instruction in National schools.

19553. To be clear on Mr. Broyer's point, let us understand this exactly. You say instruction was given in thirty-eight National schools?—Yes, just before the Department took it up.

19560. What is the number of National schools in Ireland?—A very very large number.

19561. An enormous number?—Yes.

19562. And therefore it would not be right to say that instruction was given generally?—Yes, because it had been given in far more, and it had come down to thirty-eight.

19563. Mr. Barron—I think that wants to be made more clear. It is not very clear. I was going to ask you the same question?—It had, at one time, been general—many years ago, after they started the National school system, and then it dwindled, and finally when the Department came into office the number was only thirty-eight. I am not quite sure of the date. Now I will deal with the instruction given at the Albert Institute. It has some bearing on the question of how far it equipped the teachers for this subject, and I came to the conclusion that it was not at all a sufficient training to enable the teacher to be what you might call a real agricultural instructor. It was really insufficient. The Commissioners had ceased to teach agriculture in these schools, and all, therefore, that remained of their agricultural operations were the two institutions referred to above. At each of these there were two courses in the year, one for female and one for male students; hence the equipment was designed for teaching alternate courses of practical agriculture to young men and dairy work and domestic economy to girls. The scientific instruction at Glasnevin took the form of a number of lectures on Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, and Veterinary Science by specialists from the city who were not, however, agriculturists. There were no laboratories, and therefore no practical instruction in the sciences underlying agriculture. The course extended over a period of about six months. Attention is directed to these facts, as it will enable the Commission to understand the difficulty caused by the want of trained Irishmen to enable the Department to immediately establish and staff agricultural institutions. Then another factor which has to be taken in consideration in devising a system of agricultural education is the fact that in Ireland there is an extraordinary desire on the part of young men of the country to escape from farm life. Their education is all directed towards fitting them for occupations of a wholly different character, and the brightest of the family receives an education often at the expense of the son who is to succeed the father.

19564. Mr. Barron—Do you mean to say that the sons have not a desire to stick by the land. We are always told that there is an extraordinary land hunger in Ireland and a desire to stick to the land. The two statements may be quite harmonious, but I should like to see how that is?—Well, the son who is to succeed to the holding may wish to remain, but the younger sons do not wish to remain and work on the farm. They want to leave. Many of them could find employment on the farm, but the fact is that it is not their desire to do so.

19565. Looking at it from the point of view of the congested districts, and the average congested district holding, so far as our inquiries into the congested districts have gone, this statement would not be of any

practical value, because you could not expect more than one son to want to remain on the land?—Not in the poorer parts, where the congestion is worst, but there are many parts where they would find employment, perhaps not in the scheduled area, but in the neighbourhood. Take, for example, Castlereagh. Though the land in the neighbourhood of Castlereagh is congested, I am sure employment could be found if the land were tilled. It is quite correct to say that in Ireland there is a desire on the part of young men to leave the land.

19566. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—Would that be due to the fact that boys have not any suitable training at school?—Well, I do not think so, my lord; because there is a disinclination on the part of Irish young men to work on the farm.

19567. Mr. Barron—Is it any more in Ireland than anywhere else—than in England and Scotland?—Yes, it is; because in Great Britain farm labour is considered much more dignified than it is in Ireland.

19568. Mr. Barron—Is the whole kind of education, as you have got it in Ireland, a contractual one?—It is, or a literary one.

19569. Sir James Connolly—Is it not the case that in Ireland the aim of the young men to go into the police or Government situations somewhere, and is it not their desire to escape from the land in order to get any work but agricultural work?—As to the young men who want to attend at Glasnevin, you will find among them youths who have failed for the Civil Service, who have been at Mayoath, and who have probably failed as telegraph clerks. We try, if possible, to exclude such; and a man must bring evidence that he is going to get a farm before he is admitted into either of the institutions.

19570. Mr. Barron—Don't you think that we have been putting the cart before the horse in this affair altogether? Is not the main reason why they don't want to go in for farming the land the knowledge that if they did they could not make anything out of it? Where there is only one holding available—the father's holding—and there are two sons, so that if both are to remain one has nothing better to look forward to than to become a labourer; is it not very natural that he should desire to do something better for himself?—I am not saying that it is not natural.

19571. But you put it that there is a natural disinclination to farm life and farm work; that is a different thing, is it not, from a desire to become something better than a farm labourer?—But we know that such disinclination does exist. In many parts of the country there would be farm work for more than one man on the farm.

19572. At present?—Yes, certainly.

19573. What, on a £30 holding?—Not on a £30 holding. I was not talking of the congested districts. I am afraid you are thinking of the congested districts, while I was thinking of Ireland as a whole. I am saying that there is not the desire on the part of the young men to work on the farms, even when there is plenty of remunerative work to be done.

19574. What kind of farm would the remuneration be—how would he be remunerated?—By the produce of tillage.

19575. The farm belongs to his brother, we will say, or to his father—in what capacity would he be?—He would be in the capacity of a workman on his father's or his brother's farm.

19576. A farm labourer?—Put it in that way, if you like.

19577. Sir FRANCIS MURPHY—The remuneration would be in the form of wages, would it not, and not what you rather indicated—the produce of the farm?—I mean it would come from the income of the farm.

19578. Mr. Barron—I think you indicated that what really was at the bottom of this disinclination was a false idea as to the dignity of certain forms of labour as much as anything else?—Yes.

19579. And that any disinclination that comes from agricultural labour is less dignified than that which comes from indoor work?—That is the feeling.

19580. You advocate this technical education for the sake of the son who remains and works the farm as well as the one who goes abroad?—We want to prevent the agricultural schools being attended by young men who are only using them as a means of getting into some other profession.

19581. Do you think that the reforms with regard to land laws and regulations will affect the public idea

Feb. 19, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 16, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

regarding the dignity of labour on the land?—Well, it is to be hoped so.

19022. Will the purchase of their holdings by the tenant farmers of Ireland do anything to remedy the state of things which now exists?—I think it will. I do think that once the farmer begins to till his land, and finds that it is remunerative, at any rate, to employ such labour on the farm as, for example, that of his sons who are remaining at home, or even if he is able to remuneratively employ himself, he will begin to feel that it is more dignified.

19023. But there can be no doubt that, as a general rule, there is an exodus of the rural population into the towns?—There is no doubt of that.

19024. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—With regard to this disinclination on the part of the young men to work on the land, is it not the case that in early Christian Ireland the boys of the labouring classes were all given, from childhood, practical instruction in the useful occupations of life?—How far back do you go?

19025. I think to the sixth century, when the Irish schools were on a very satisfactory basis?—I was not thinking of so long ago.

19026. Assuming that to be a fact—that the boys of the labouring classes of those centuries were trained from childhood in the practical things of afterlife—would it not account, to some extent, at all events, for any present disinclination to remain on the land, that there has been, say, for the last forty years, nothing of a similar kind in the National schools of the country?—You ask whether that would account for it?

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Whether the absence of instruction concerning the occupation of life in the National schools does not account, to some extent, for the disinclination you have spoken of?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—By the useful occupations of life, in your lordship referring to agriculture?

19027. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Yes?—Well, to some extent, no doubt; but I would not attribute it altogether to that.

19028. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you not think that economic causes have more to do with it?—Yes; economic causes.

19029. Mr. BAYNE.—Taking economic causes, you say that these young men prefer other occupations to that of agricultural labourers. What could such a young man earn as an agricultural labourer?—Well, there are plenty of farms where he might have a cottage and 15s. a week.

19030. But surely that is a very high wage?—I do not see why he should not have that. There is no reason why he should not.

19031. We are not talking about what might be, but about what it is. Under the existing conditions, where could he get 15s. per week and a cottage?—You mean where can he now? At very few places, indeed.

19032. Is it not better to disregard altogether a priori ideas of what may or may not be the national character, and so on, and to look at the facts, and see what these men can do—what are the alternative courses?—Just so; but I am looking to the future as well.

19033. But I think it would be calculated to produce a rather wrong impression in the minds of the public to have a statement of this kind going out—that there is a natural disinclination on the part of Irishmen to work on a farm. I think that would be a very undesirable statement to go out on your authority, and I am trying to shake you on that?—But it is true.

19034. But not more true of Ireland than of anywhere else where the same conditions exist?—It is a great deal more true than it is of Scotland, for instance.

19035. You mean there is a larger number of people of whom it may be said. Are not the wages in Scotland better?—Certainly.

19036. And may not that account for it—that a labourer on a farm in Aberdeenshire can earn more than a labourer on a farm in Ireland?—Yes.

19037. Where is the ground for saying there is disinclination to work on the land when the simple fact is that in the one case a man can earn a certain amount of pounds, shillings, and pence, and in the other he cannot?—But, apart from that, the Irishman and the Scotchman are a little different in the way in which they regard labour.

19038. Mr. SUTHERLAND. It is bad enough in Scotland at the present time?—It is not so bad.

19039. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you remarked how strenuously a returned emigrant works on an Irish farm after being away for some years? Has

it come under your notice that men who were not reputed as hard workers before they went to America, come back, and make a great impression on the soil on their return?—I have heard so; but I am bound to say I have not seen that myself. Your lordship is in a much better position than I am to judge of that.

19040. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Holding the views which you have expressed, how do you explain the willingness which exists to pay altogether an excessive value to get back to the farm?—Well, there is a desire to get land, but to a great extent, I believe, they are actuated by a desire to be in a position to trade. When a young man gets his land at the present time he usually becomes a grazier, and goes to market frequently, and buys and sells stock. That is, perhaps, one reason which actuates him. It is more dignified to be a dealer in cattle than it is to be a worker on the land.

19041. But is there not an almost equal desire to get agricultural head—small holdings, for instance?—Do you mean tillage land?

19042. Yes?—There is a greater desire to get grazing lands, in my own experience.

19043. Do you suggest that there has not been for years past a willingness to pay more than the legitimate value of the ordinary small holding, which certainly will not be used for pasture purposes? We have had a great deal of evidence that even the smallest holdings on the shores of the sea always command prices wholly in excess of their economic value?—Yes; he wants that as a home; but then, that man is a labourer in Scotland, is he not?

19044. But I am talking of Ireland for the moment?—But that man I am talking about is an English labourer. You must bear in mind that many of the Scottish labourers live in Ireland.

19045. Then do you say that they are Scotchmen who are buying up these holdings?—No; I am referring to the migratory labourers, who work a large part of the year in Scotland and in England.

19046. But do these people who so greatly devalue agricultural work go to England and Scotland two-thirds of the year to do agricultural work?—They do.

19047. And they come back from those trips also greatly devaluing the work?—Devaluing work in this country.

19048. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But did you not rather refer to the young men when you talked about this?—Yes; but what Sir Francis Mowatt says is to a great extent true.

19049. Is a man who has devoted twenty years of his life to agricultural labour prepared to leave it, and go to town work after that?—No, I did not refer to that; I referred to the fact that he would go to Scotland to work, and work well, and get very good wages; but he does not do that on his own holding.

19050. Sir JAMES CROMBIE.—The opinion which you have expressed here is based, I suppose, upon personal observation and enquiry in different parts of Ireland?—It is based on the experience I have had through coming into contact with young men attending our classes, and upon our interviews and correspondence with these young men.

19051. But I suppose you have talked to farmers of all descriptions in Ireland?—I have done so—yes.

19052. And have you found that it is the general complaint of the farmers who are farmers in Ireland that their sons will not work on the farms?—No; I cannot say that.

19053. You have not heard that?—No, I cannot say that.

19054. Have you not found complaints from those who are spending money in improvements of agriculture on big farms that, do what they will as regards wages and accommodation, they cannot keep the young men? Have your inquiries led you to find that?—Well, our inquiries have led us to this—that whenever you talk of the question of tillage to any farmer, he says that he cannot get labourers, and that they all leave.

19055. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Should you say they leave for the purpose of emigrating, or for the purpose of trying to find some other sort of work?—I think a great many of these young men try to find some other kind of employment at home before going to America. It is not always so, but many young men try to get into positions of various kinds before

going to America. America is the last resource. I am commanding my attention to the cause I know of.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Of course; that is what makes your evidence valuable.

18716. Sir JOHN COLOMB.—Is it right to say from that limited experience—because, after all, it is a limited experience—that the young men that do work, work with a view to getting means to escape altogether from the land, and to go away?—Those that do work?

18717. Yes—as a rule?—Yes; I think that is so.

18718. And do you attribute this dislike to work to physical causes, such as those children going early to a National school with the object of acquiring an education, and getting a Government commission, and so on—do you think that the habits of life, and the sitting all day until four o'clock, writes them for physical effort and hard work, and that when, at 16 or 17 years of age, they go out of school, if you ask them to weed turnips, they complain of a pain in the back, and will not do it, simply because they are physically unfitted by the habits of life formed in school?—I do not.

18719. You do not think it is a contributing cause?—No.

18720. Do you go so far as to say that you do not think it a contributing cause to the young people of 15 or 16 being disinclined for this physical labour?—I do not attribute it to that.

18721. You attribute the cause to sentimental objection?—I attribute it a good deal to these young men not being properly fed, and so being unable to work.

18722. I am talking of the physical conditions of the schools under which the children of Ireland are brought up—sitting in school from ten till four, and undressed as well; and when they come to be of such an age that they are available for labour, they are physically unfit. What I ask you is—have you considered that point, and do you consider that it may be a contributing cause to the dislike of the Irish farmer's son to do any physical labour at all?—I do not.

18723. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What are the hours at school—how many hours a day has a child to attend?—I am afraid I am not competent to speak of that.

18724. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Roughly, from ten to three?—Yes.

18725. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is no longer, is it, than children in other countries, who go to school without detriment to their bodily health or to their mental vigour?—No.

18726. Sir JOHN COLOMB.—Have you noticed this—that if you want really good work you have to go to the old men, and not to the young in Ireland for agricultural labour?—Yes, I have noticed that.

18727. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you attribute it to the system of education to any extent?—I attribute it to the system of home education of the young men.

18728. What sort of subjects are they taught at school?—The usual subjects.

18729. The usual literary subjects?—Yes. I attribute it not to the education they receive at school, but to the education that they receive at home. In the English farms with which I am acquainted the children of the small farmer, and, indeed, at the very big farms, have got to work; they have got to do a day's work on the Saturday, and whenever they are not at school they have got to work on their father's farm.

18730. In answer to Sir John Colomb, you said that the old men could be got to do it. Were these old men educated at National schools?—I cannot tell you.

18731. Is there a difference might it be attributed to the system of the National schools holding up ideals to the people?—So far as it holds up ideals, it may.

18732. You know that several of His Majesty's Inspectors in England have brought up very trenchant reports as to the false ideals held up in that country?—Yes.

18733. And they have pointed out that nothing was done to fit young men for rural life—that, instead of being taught botany and other similar subjects, they were taught vulgar fractions?—I do not think botany will help them very much.

18734. Is it not only a highly educated man who can enjoy country life?—It is not a question of enjoying life—it is a question of getting a livelihood.

18735. You see processes of unemployed in the Irish towns, do you not?—Yes.

18736. You do not see them in rural districts?—You do not see processes.

18737. They do not go about as public mendicants, do they?—No, they do not.

18738. Why do people rush into places like that, where there is nothing awaiting them, if they could live in comfort and decency in the country?—You would not keep them in the country by teaching them botany.

18739. But I thought your system was to teach agriculture?—Not to boys—not to children. I would be opposed to teaching anything in the shape of technical agriculture to a boy under, I was going to say 15, but say 13 or 14.

18740. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Would you not teach him gardening and the elements of practical agriculture as an early age?—I certainly would not.

18741. Mr. BARNES.—You said, in answer to Mr. Sutherland, that the young boy in England works for his father on the farm out of school hours, but does he not do so in Ireland?—Well, he may to a small extent in the busy season, but the point is this. Taking the winter months, you go to a Scotch or an English farm, and you find the boys at work with their fathers; in Ireland you will not find them at work, even supposing they are not at school—even supposing they are waiting at home before leaving to get occupation in America or elsewhere—you will not find them at work on the farms.

18742. You said you very much doubted whether, if the grass lands were divided, it would lead to an increase of tillage, but is it not the fact that there has been an increase of tillage—or the Dillon estate, for instance, has not tillage considerably increased?—I prefer to speak of the districts I know. I know one estate where the land has been given to the residents in the district. In some cases they were labourers, and they got holdings of various sizes two years ago. They are labourers yet. They have not even availed themselves of the Estate Commissioners' £200 to build a house. They are still labourers. But, mark you, I am not one of those who believe that that state of things will continue. I believe it is possible to get over that difficulty, but there will be this tendency—there will be reluctance to till the land for a very considerable time. I pass on now—I am dealing with the question of agricultural education. Discussion arose on the point where I said that there is—or I believe it to be so—an extraordinary desire on the part of young men in the country to escape from farm life. The occupier of the land himself is not always a man of education, nor can he be expected to appreciate the advantages of education, except as a means of escaping from the land. Now we find that it is very easy to get him to educate the boy who is to leave the land, compared to what it is to get him to educate the boy remaining at home. Of course, he wants him to work; he wants his help at certain seasons of the year. To induce him therefore to make some sacrifice, to give the son remaining on the holding technical education suitable to his calling, it is necessary first of all to convince him of its advantage. It is impossible to bring the farmer himself to school, and therefore the only way can be brought into contact with the application of sciences to agriculture is by sending itinerant instructors to give lectures in the evenings, to visit the holdings during the day, and to discuss the various problems which confront him in the practice of his business. Such an officer armed with a thoroughly scientific and practical knowledge of agriculture, rarely fails to convince a farmer of the fact that he would have been more successful had he received an agricultural education, and that it is to his son's advantage that he should be given one. It is scarcely necessary to say that such work, however, is slow, even in the most progressive countries, and requires patience and determined perseverance. It is a universal experience that the more highly educated, capable, and progressive the farmer the more interest he takes in education.

18743. Is it the fact that if there are three sons the smartest one goes away always—that he never tills the land?—Did I say so?

18744. You do say so—you refer to where the smartest son forsakes the land?—But I did not mean to say that the smartest son invariably leaves; I did not want to convey that idea.

18745. Then you must qualify that?—Yes, I did not mean to say that in every case the smart son goes

Feb. 18, 1897.

Professor J. R. Campbell.

Feb. 12, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

away. As a matter of fact, however, the smartest men do want to leave, and very often do leave.

19747. What you mean is, that when they are not going to get the farm they go away, whether smart or not?—The smartest men get into professions, and of those that are not smart, I suppose a great many go to America. With the agriculture of Ireland in a backward condition, where the smartest men leave the land, with the holdings often too small to be economically managed and where the farmer's financial resources are limited, with the system of agricultural credit, often of the worst possible description, and where people have been taught that an improvement of the land may mean an increase of the rent, the Commission will realize that the Department have had a real difficulty to face.

19748. To what period do you refer when you say that people have been taught that improvement in the land may mean an increase of rent?—I mean up to very recent times.

19749. But not since the Act of 1831?—Oh, yes, certainly.

19750. But they have got credit for improvements since the Act of 1831—they have not been penalised since the Act of 1831?—They believe that they have.

19751. They have been penalised because the Land Commissioners have dealt improperly with their functions?—They may have thought so.

19752. But had they any reason to think so?—I would rather not answer that question; I would rather assume else did so. Suffice it to say that there is a very great danger of that. There is no Compensation for Improvements Act in Ireland, as there is in Great Britain. Every farmer in Great Britain has the benefit of this Act.

19753. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But the tenant cannot be relied on his improvements, and that he knows well?—But he might fear it.

19754. He might fear a good many things?—It would be quite enough to prevent him making improvements.

19755. Did you ever know it preventing any farmer?—I do not know of a case.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—You should not state it then.

19756. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Should you say it is true now that farmers who purchase land think there can be any allocation in their rent?—Under the new Act I do not think so.

19757. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you put it thus way—that the insecurity of the past has a great effect on the feelings of the present?—Yes.

19758. Sir JOHN COOKE.—But this generation has grown up under a system where improvements cannot lead to an increase of rent. It has been twenty-six years at work. Does not that modify your opinion?—No; my statement is this—they have been taught, and they believe, that improvement might lead to increase in rent.

19759. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say they believe it. Do you mean they believe it now, or they did believe it?—They will not believe it now, but they did before the recent Act.

19760. Sir JOHN COOKE.—You say the only means of developing this agricultural interest is by sending round instructors and lecturers in the evenings. Are we to take it that you exclude the other alternative, of having residential district instructors?—You cannot have residential district instructors; they would not be of much use; you must have an itinerant instructor.

19761. In considering the question of the machinery to be provided for this purpose of imparting agricultural knowledge, you think that on principle these instructors should be itinerant and not residential district instructors?—Do you mean that he is to reside at a certain spot?

19762. In a certain district?—He must be an itinerant instructor. So far, we have only got two or three of these in a county. The time is coming when we shall have more, and then they will not have to travel such distances as at present.

19763. Mr. BRYAN.—Do you discuss later the principle upon which the agricultural instruction that is to be given is to be determined? If not, I would like to ask you whether you think that this working of the system by itinerant instructors, in the way in which it is at present conducted, is of much value?—Of very great value—of immense value. The evidence is overwhelming on that.

19764. I quite understand that if the radius was sufficiently small it might be of very great value, and might be the only method of doing it, but we have had a good deal of evidence as we have been going about different districts in Ireland, and from other people, too—official evidence—disagreeing with the advantages of the system as it is at present pursued?—If you will excuse my saying so, I do not think you have been in any of the counties where it is at work. I have followed your movements, and I am not aware that you have been anywhere where the system is at work.

19765. We have had evidence from official witnesses, but the only county we have been in is Donegal?—And Donegal has no instructors. But I deal with that question later on.

19766. Oh, you do? That is what I asked?—Yes. It is too late in the day now to question the value of an itinerant instructor.

19767. I agree; my only doubt was as to the areas?—I deal with that, too, later on. Then I just briefly enumerate the considerations at which the Department arrived in the policy that they adopted, and that will finish this question. With these considerations, the policy of the Department has been—(1) To provide at one central institution the highest form of technical education for the training of men who are to become teachers and specialists in agriculture. This has been done at the Royal College of Science in connection with the farm and college at Glasnevin.

19768. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—One single question on that. Do the students who come to study there come from a considerable distance, or from the immediate neighbourhood?—From all over Ireland.

19769. The existence of it is very well known?—Oh, yes. (2) To provide at least one high-class agricultural college which would form a stepping-stone to men desirous of entering the Royal College of Science, as well as men, the sons of well-to-do farmers, who wish for an education to enable them to manage their own farms, and men who desire to become country managers, or who wish to have a special training to fit them as horticultural or poultry experts, stewards, land agents, or other occupations in connection with agriculture. This has been done at the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin. (3) To provide provincial institutions at which young men who can be spared from the farm for one year can be taken in as apprentices, taught agriculture, both practical and technical, at a fee proportionate to their means. This work, which had to be delayed until teachers were trained, is now in progress at three such institutions, and the provision of others is in contemplation.

19770. Mr. BRYAN.—You mean such a place as the Clonsilla Farm?—Yes.

19771. At what time of life—at what age—do you desire to bring these young men in; at what age can they best be spared from the farms?—Well, at the present time from seventeen years upwards, but it is possible that we may slightly lower the age. That is the present age.

19772. Where are the other two institutions?—One is at Ballyshades, in County Carrow, and the other is at Athenry, in Galway. (4) To provide winter schools of agriculture where the sons of farmers could obtain technical training at small expense during the winter months, when they can best be spared from farm work. Twenty-eight such schools were started last winter in twelve counties where progress had previously been made with itinerant instruction.

19773. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Were any of these twelve counties Congested Districts?—No.

19774. This is all outside the congested counties?—Yes; they are gradually developing their programme there as well. (5) To provide one central higher institution for the training of women in the domestic economy of the farmhouse, and in work which falls to the lot of women to perform in connection with the farmyard, as, for example, dairying and poultry-keeping. This provision has been made at the Munster Institute, Cork.

19775. There is no other in any other part of Ireland?—The success of that school has been so great that we have opened another at Cookstown.

19776. Mr. BRYAN.—Is this with a view to training instructors similar to Class (1) as regards men?—That is one of the main functions of the school.

19777. Do you not think it would be well to make that clear—to say that the education in (5) corresponds with the education in (1) for men? That is

really what you mean, I suppose?—It is; it corresponds very much to the Albert College for men.

1977. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Have you had enough experience of the working of the Minister Dairy School for the training of women to be able to give any indication as to whether these women take places in Ireland, or whether they emigrate?—Well, I have not got exact figures to give you, but I know a great number of them have recently been employed under the County Committees in dairying, poultry-keeping, and so forth; a very good number have obtained positions as dairymaids in circumstances, and a fair sprinkling of them also in private houses, and some as handy maids, and some even as domestic servants. Some go home, I know.

1978. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do they remain chiefly in Ireland, or do they go to England?—Chiefly in Ireland; but there again the girls go to the school to a large extent with the hope of escaping from the land—there is no doubt about that. Just as the boys use the other schools, or would use them if they got the opportunity, to escape from the land, so the girls use this school.

1979. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The land is associated in their minds with poverty?—Well, I am not quite sure of that, but they want to get away from it.

1980. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Therefore the more you teach them the more they emigrate?—Yes, but we do not allow them—the boys, that is—to come into our agricultural institutions unless they bring evidence that they are going on to a farm.

1981. But these young women?—Well, as to the young women, we have not adopted any system of selection, because a girl cannot very well guarantee to get a husband who is a farmer.

1982. But some of them go back home, you say. Is that proportion large?—Not very large, but there is a class which I am bound to say we do not know what becomes of them—a class of girls who are not very smart, and perhaps not able to take advantage of the training. All these who are able to take situations of the kind which I have described usually settle in Ireland.

1983. The hopeful ones would carry back the knowledge they have acquired, and apply it to their own homes, would they not?—But this school I am talking of is for the training of our teachers; we look upon it more as a training institution than as an institution to equip girls to go back to their homes. At other centres, and particularly in the congested districts, we hope to get girls to attend local schools of this description in order that they may be educated to go back to their homes.

1984. I see there is a paragraph headed (it is a very useful heading) "Been-a-bighs," or housewife; have you much of that?—A few in the congested districts.

1985. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I understand that you do not give the advantages of the training at these institutions to men unless you are satisfied that they are going to have a farm?—You are speaking of No. 3.

1986. That is so, is it not?—Yes.

1987. And that is a precaution, I suppose, to prevent the State money being used to educate people from carrying to other countries agricultural knowledge?—It is to prevent a school being used for the training of young men who are not going to farm in Ireland. I do not say it is to keep agricultural knowledge from going to other countries.

1988. But is that a necessary provision, when it is a well-known fact that the Irishman who emigrates from Ireland never goes on the land anywhere else. As a rule, the average Irishman who escapes from the land in Ireland does not go on to the land anywhere else?—I do not quite understand the point.

1989. This rule is to prevent young men taking advantage of State funds and State machinery to qualify for emigration; and I ask you, is that very necessary, when it is known that Irish people who emigrate to another country never go on the land at all?—I do not think that affects the question, because they would use these schools, and they try to use them for the purpose of getting into other positions. There are other subjects besides agriculture taught in these schools, and many of the young men, as a matter of fact, compete for non-agricultural situations from

Glasgow. We do not as yet have the rule at Glasgow School. It is to the schools of class No. 3 that it applies.

1990. Provincial institutions?—Yes, provincial institutions; there we train young men who are certain to go back to farms.

1991. To farms within the province, or within Ireland?—Within Ireland.

1992. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What precautions do you take to ensure that?—We cannot make it absolutely certain, of course, but the pupil has got to declare that he is going to get a farm, his father has to declare it, and usually the parish priest has to declare it, and we generally get evidence from others as well. I do not say the rule is perfect, but it certainly excludes a very large number of young men who would come to these schools and use them as stepping stones to something else.

1993. Mr. BUTCH.—That means a tremendous run on your schools, because the other schools in Ireland are inadequate to fulfil the demand for better education?—No; the reason is that our terms are very reasonable.

1994. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Your money terms?—Yes, they are very reasonable. We would be willing, almost, to educate a man free, if we were sure that he was going to be a farmer. I, for one, would educate him free.

1995. Mr. BUTCH.—At all events, it illustrates the strong desire of the Irish people to have an education?—Oh, yes.

1996. You have been giving us a priori theories as to Irish ideas, one being a desire to escape from the land; and what you have been saying affords, on very much the same principle, strong evidence of the desire of the Irish people to have an education?—Oh, yes.

1997. Do you think the Irishman only desires education in order to escape from the land?—I would not say that.

1998. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—He desires better education in order to better himself in life?—Certainly.

1999. And it seems to follow, from your evidence, that if another school could be found to teach him, not agriculture at all, but such knowledge as would enable him to find outside places of a better sort, he would rather go there than to you, except as regards pecuniary terms?—Quite so.

2000. It has been suggested to me by Sir John Colson that you might be asked to put in somewhere a little statement of what are the fees paid?—They are all given in this memorandum.* I come now to (6) provide for young women education in domestic economy and farmyard work at residential and day schools. This has been done at a number of institutions, while the equipment of others is under consideration. (7) To provide in each county, by a system of illiterate instruction in agriculture, horticulture, dairying, poultry-keeping, and bee-keeping, instruction and advice for farmers and their wives, sons and daughters, who cannot avail themselves of other means of acquiring information. Then, I come to a description of these different institutions, which I do not propose to read to you unless you wish me to do so. The evidence I have just given you is the part on which I desired to be allowed to dwell, and now if there are any questions which you wish to ask me about these various institutions I shall be happy to answer them. The first is the Royal College of Science, and at the bottom of page 8 you will see that the number of students trained since 1900 has been thirty-four, while the number at present in training is twenty-nine.

2001. Sir JOHN COLSON.—It is a three years' course?—A three years' course. A thorough systematic training in scientific agriculture is given, as good as may be had anywhere; and these are all provided for by scholarships of the Department.

2002. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Can you trace the employment at all?—Every one of the thirty-four who have been trained since 1900 is employed by the Department in Ireland, and for the twenty-nine now in training there will be immediate employment the moment they are trained, and I hope for a good many more as well.

2003. Sir JOHN COLSON.—They will meet the difficulty you complained of before—lack of teachers?—Quite so.

2004. Mr. KAVANAGH.—They will be qualified as agricultural instructors?—Agricultural instructors,

Feb. 16, 1907.

Professor J. R. Campbell.

Feb. 13, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

agricultural teachers, and so on. They are selected, first of all, on their knowledge of practical agriculture; they are taken out to a farm, and have to perform agricultural operations before they are allowed into the College.

19005. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—That is a necessary qualification of which you satisfy yourself before you admit them?—Yes, otherwise they would not be qualified.

19006. Do these numbers that you have given us come from different parts of Ireland—are they fairly representative of the different provinces of Ireland?—Yes, I should say pretty representative.

19007. You take them indifferently—you do not limit the area in any way, but take the whole of Ireland?—The whole of Ireland.

19008. And these pupils represent fairly the whole of Ireland?—Yes. Then the next is the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin. There you see the fees that are charged—farmers' sons pay £25, and others £50 per annum. There are twenty-five holders of free places, obtained by examination, of course; nine pay £25, and as you see, there is only one student paying the £50 fee.

19009. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is that £50 a year or £50 for the three years?—£50 a year.

19010. That includes everything?—Everything—maintenance and education.

19011. What does the £25 fee include?—That is only a quarter of what it costs. Perhaps I am wrong—it does not cost quite £50.

19012. But the students who pay £25 do get maintenance?—Oh, yes.

19013. Mr. STEWART.—How do you adjudicate the free places?—By examination.

19014. Have you many more applicants than the 25?—A very great many more.

19015. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—At the Agricultural College at Glasnevin there is an experimental farm, is there not?—Yes.

19016. Are there any labourers employed upon it, or do the students do all the labour?—Labourers are employed. The students only work half the day—perhaps not that—because this school professes to be a technical agricultural college, while the others profess to be more of a practical character. It was necessary, the Department considered, to have one of these colleges of the type of the colleges that are so numerous in Great Britain.

19017. But is there any qualification such as is prescribed in the Royal College of Science in Ireland as to the practical knowledge of all sorts of farm work on the part of candidates?—No, but we are introducing that next year. The fact is that this institution was handed over to the Department without such restrictions, and the Department have been reluctant to make too many changes in the old system; but we find that the young men who are coming into residence are too often bent upon using the place as a means of getting out of Ireland, and going elsewhere.

19018. You are going to alter it?—Oh, yes; we find it necessary. Then I mention that it is also now used as a horticultural school for training horticultural experts. Then you come to the heading "Agricultural Stations," and this answers the question asked a little while ago as to what was the fee charged to those young men who came forward and established their claim for instruction on the basis that they were going to have a farm.

19019. These are provincial institutions?—Provincial institutions. Where the aggregate valuation does not exceed £20 the fee per session is 25. For that the students get maintenance, education, medical attendance, washing, and so on.

19020. Mr. KAVANAGH.—£5 per session?—£5 per session.

19021. Mr. BRYCE.—How long is the session?—Practically a year. When the valuation exceeds £20, but does not exceed £40, the fee is 65; exceeding £40, but not exceeding £100, it is 210; and where the valuation exceeds £100 the fee is £15. For apprentices not included in the foregoing classes the fee is £20.

19022. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What apprentices are not included in the foregoing classes?—Sons of shopkeepers who are going to get farms.

19023. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Is there any standard of distribution of these different classes?—None; we have not filled these schools yet.

19024. Are any of them filled?—One is almost filled, 19025. Which one?—Glenties is very nearly filled. Ballyhaise is not filled. Of course they are not filled because of the difficulty of getting in. There are very few young men who can prove to you that they are going to have a farm, and are entitled to have these advantages. We could very soon fill the places if these conditions did not exist; it would pay a man to send his boy there to be fed for a year.

19026. But the total cost of these institutions is shared between the rate and Imperial taxation?—Oh, no, it is entirely central expenditure.

19027. Therefore the central expenditure of an institution of this sort would be far greater in a congested district where the houses are small than in districts where the houses are large?—It would be, but we have none of these in congested districts.

19028. And Glenties is not yet, but is very nearly, complete?—It is very nearly; the places are almost all taken up.

19029. Was it owing to there being more local interest and more local effort than in other parts of Ireland that Glenties happened to be the first place to establish a school?—It happened to be the first, because one of the members of the Agricultural Board offered as a farm. That was how it started.

19030. Mr. BRYCE.—That was the Bishop of Ely?—Yes. He offered the farm. Monsignor O'Leary and he were jointly interested in it under a bequest, and started you free of expense so far as the land was concerned?—Yes, that is so. Then I come to the winter schools of agriculture. This is very different from a residential school.

19031. I would just like to ask one question at this point. It is grading land you have taken over, and you are going to put it into tillage. This seems a convenient place to raise the question, as I do not see that you discuss it later on. You said that you doubted whether, if the grading land were broken up, there would be as much increase as some people imagined in tillage. Have you any figures to show what kind of return would be given by tillage and grazing farms respectively?—I mean if you were to take the ordinary grazing farms; I am not speaking of rich lands, meadows, and so forth, but ordinary grazing lands. Do you believe it would pay better under cattle than under tillage?—It would pay better to put it under tillage undoubtedly.

19032. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—If capital is used, and if the land is intelligently used?—Quite so. All that must be understood.

19033. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you say you would reserve a part of it for feeding?—I would not be in favour of ploughing up all the holding.

19034. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would have mixed farming?—Yes.

19035. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—A good tillage system is a mixed system?—Yes. That is dealt with pretty fully in part 3. In these winter schools the boys are not boarded, as they are in Glenties or Ballyhaise. They come in for the day in the winter months, the winter months being slack, and the teacher meets them. We arrange for suitable premises, which we equip. The young men come in on bicycles, or by train, or in some cases walk. This is a form of agricultural education which is capable of becoming very beneficial and very useful in a country like Ireland, where the people are poor, and it is a system which I should like very much to see extended.

19036. Mr. BRYCE.—Have you found it much appreciated?—You don't give the figures of the attendance here?—On page 18 you will see how it is increasing. The best evidence, of course, of the popularity and usefulness of the scheme is the desire of the local authorities to take it up, because these winter schools are under the local authorities and not under the Department. They are increasing year after year. The only thing keeping it back is the want of teachers. Every county in Ireland could take it up if we had teachers for the work. I have advised the Department not to start these schools until they have the teachers, because I believe that one of the causes of the National Commissioners' scheme not being a success was that anyone was thought good enough to teach the subject. That system has been disastrous in other countries and it would be disastrous in this.

19037. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Attached to these schools, with the deal benches and so on described, is there an experimental plot of land to show the people?—No. The plots are at the homes of the pupils. The

teacher under the County Committee has a large number of experimental and demonstration plots, which are very often on the farms where these boys come from.

19337. Is it the practice then that the teaching is not confined to the class-room but that the teacher goes out to the farms and deals practically with the work on the farms?—He does; but that is more the work of the itinerant instructor.

19338. Not of the teacher?—This teacher is often confined to giving instruction in the school. In some cases he may do both.

19339. That teacher is resident, specially qualified, and sent down by the Department?—He is appointed by the County Committee.

19340. Mr. KATYANAKH—Is not he generally the agricultural instructor?—Not always.

19341. But generally?—Not generally even, but in many cases.

19342. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do I understand the system to be that you have got one representative of the Department in the class-room and another dealing with the matter practically with the boys on the land?—They sometimes do that.

19343. Is not that a very great assistance?—It is; because what we want is to get as many farmers as possible to consult with the instructor, ask him to their farms and to go over their farms with them, describe the improvements that they would like to see effected, and generally to advise them.

19344. Why cannot the teacher do that?—Because he cannot be in the class-room and on the farms.

19345. But are not his lessons given in the winter months in the evening?—No; they are given to the boys in the day-time.

19346. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are these classes held every day?—I don't say they are held every day; a teacher might have two or three classes who would meet in turn.

19347. Mr. BARNES.—Don't you think it would be a great advantage to have an experimental farm attached to the land, so that the teacher might take out the boys, and illustrate the oral instruction which he had been given by the practical results on the land?—He takes them to farms in the neighbourhood very often and shows the results there.

19348. Farms in the neighbourhood which are under his control?—Partly under his control.

19349. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—He is not working them?—No; but he has access to them, and has the co-operation of the farmer, who is seeking his advice, and he can show quite as much by having a large number of farms, to which he can bring the pupils, as he can, if he did it the way you refer to. I am not saying the system that Mr. Bryce advocates is wrong or impossible, but that is the system at present.

19350. Mr. BARNES.—It was the system pursued more or less by the Congested Districts Board before the work was taken over by your Department. There used to be example plots which were used for giving demonstration, and a great deal of instruction was given by the instructor?—Yes.

19351. The Congested Districts Board authorities here got a very strong opinion with regard to the value of that as compared with the value of your system?—I am afraid we are confusing two things. I believe you are thinking of the itinerant instruction in agriculture. I am thinking of the teacher in the school.

19352. I don't know that that matters very much. I was rather thinking of the principle of an example plot entirely under the control of an official instructor?—Let us take that now. There are many hundreds of such demonstration plots under our itinerant instructors.

19353. Actually under his complete control?—Yes; many hundreds of them. I could not tell you how many. Perhaps the actual number is given later on.

19354. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—There would be a great practical difficulty in each of those teachers being able to get a holding which he cannot cultivate himself to show the effects of cultivation to his pupils?—There is not only a difficulty in getting it, but at present it would be a waste of time. At present he meets many hundreds of farmers in the course of the year. By and by, when instructors are more plentiful, it would be desirable to have far more stations, and more schools and more of these demonstration plots.

19355. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—I suppose the pupils invite the teachers to the farms of their fathers?

—Yes; the fathers attend the meetings, and invite the teachers to the farms next day, perhaps. The instructor can impart a great deal of information to the occupier if he does it with tact.

19356. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And the local tenants don't resent the advice?—Not if it is given with tact. They are all delighted to have it. My next section is agricultural education for girls. I must describe the Munster Institute in Cork, where the girls are trained as teachers in dairying, laundry work, and poultry-keeping. I have dealt up to the present with agricultural education. Now we come to the county schemes of agriculture, about which I was asked some time ago. These schemes provide for instruction by itinerant instructors, a form of education which has played an important part in the development of agriculture in many countries. The work is now under the immediate direction of the County Committees of Agriculture. Of course the schemes are revised annually at the beginning of the agricultural year, so as to give the localities opportunities for making suggestions for improvements in the methods of procedure suggested by the experience gained during the year, or for the total rejection of the schemes if they disappear of them. At first, when the number of instructors was very limited, and when the Committee and the public had no experience of such work, the Department themselves provided directly for work of this kind by sending out pioneer instructors each year. However, there was soon a great demand for instruction of this character, and as the demand increased and instructors became available, the direction of the work has gradually been delegated to the committees themselves. They appoint the instructor, arrange the work, check and pay the locomotion expenses and salaries of all, except in the case of the agricultural instructor, whose salary is paid directly by the Department. The costs of all these schemes are paid out of the joint fund, which is the County Council rate and the Department's contribution. The question as to how long schemes of this nature should remain in operation is one which has not yet arisen, and which would be left to the County Councils themselves to decide. As will be shown, however, their popularity has been so great and the demand for such work so steadily increasing that there is every prospect of their being retained in their present form for a much longer time than the Department anticipated. The outline of each form of instruction are embodied in a printed scheme, and this can be gone into if necessary. I proceed to take each of these schemes in turn. I am prepared to answer any question on them.

19357. Mr. KATYANAKH.—Also there are schemes at present at work in the congested districts?—Yes.

19358. In what counties?—Cork. I am not considering Cork as a congested districts county. There are schemes in every one of these.

19359. In Donegal?—Yes. Even in Donegal there are schemes. You will get it on page 45. It is all set forth there. There are one or more schemes in all these counties. As regards agricultural instruction this diagram (indicated) shows, without going into figures the great progress that has been made by the counties collectively, year by year; that is itinerant instruction in agriculture. It shows that the number engaged in this work was at first very few, and the demand has been constantly increasing. All the committees have been anxious to have this scheme. In fact it has been a source of complaint against the Department that we have not got on faster than we have, but we have stuck to the principle that you must have a properly trained man if the thing is going to be a success. Now we are gradually getting out of our difficulties, because by next year I think there will be men sufficient at least to go round all the counties, though not enough to supply the full wants of all.

19360. Mr. BARNES.—You mean an average of one man per county?—We will have at least that next year, and probably somewhat more.

19361. Do you consider one man per county sufficient?—It depends on the county. In a poor county you want a great many. In a well-to-do county where the farmers are larger and will do, and have been taking an interest in questions of technical agriculture for years one man will do. One man has always been found sufficient in Scotland. One man in a county has usually been found sufficient in England, too. In some of the counties of

Feb. 18, 1937.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 18, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Ireland one man will do, and in many of the counties you will require a great many.

18862. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—I think it is unnecessary for us to go through the details of the several heads of education, there is really nothing we can ask upon them, and they do not directly apply to our work. I propose, therefore, to take those as they stand. They will be in the Appendix, and we can read them for ourselves. Then you will come on to the teacher difficulty, which you will find at the top of page 211—I want to refer to these schemes, as I have diagrams showing the progress which has been made. I will exhibit these, and then pass on. That (indicating) represents the progress that has been made by the County Committees in their work. As you see, it is steadily going up, and nothing but funds will prevent it going very much higher. Then that (indicating) represents the progress which has been made with agricultural education in schools. That is during the whole period. You remember that I told you that in the early days we had no teachers. This represents the system of school instruction. This (indicating) the itinerant instructor system. A point I would ask you to bear in mind is that in everyone of these schemes there is a rapid development, because it is rather assumed that these schemes are not popular. They could not be going at the rate they are unless they were popular and acceptable to the people. Then there is the system of prizes for cottagers which the County Committees have taken up. I draw attention to this, because I believe there will be a danger of these schemes to some extent clashing with the parish schemes in the Congested Districts. I should like to see some means of obviating that in future. That (indicating) represents the list of prizes for small farming.

18863. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Would it also include improvements in the house, improvements in the farmyard, and so on?—Yes; particularly in the farmyard.

18864. Does that do everything the Parish Committee does?—I am not sure that it does. I believe that under the Parish Committee Scheme there are two systems: one is to give a grant for work done, and the other is to give prizes. This is the prize system.

18865. I do not mean the system; I mean the aim, the object?—The object is the same.

18866. The object is the same?—Exactly the same.

18867. So that nothing can be done under a Parish Committee Scheme which cannot be done under your scheme, and vice versa?—That is so. The details of the two schemes are different, but there is nothing to prevent us making them the same. Then instruction in poultry-keeping, which is very important, is represented by that diagram (indicating) giving the number of counties at work under the scheme. There has been a little falling off in the western counties, mainly owing to the action of the Department themselves. The Department have asked counties in the western district to devote a little more attention to the distribution of eggs and the improvement of fowl rather than to lectures, and that accounts for the little falling off this year. But the western counties have expressed a strong desire that the Department should resume the system of giving instruction by an itinerant instructor, and next year it is proposed to accede to the request and reinstate them. The Department did not originally expect they would be so popular as it proved to be. That (indicating) shows the original number of egg stations.

18868. Do these stripes mean years?—Yes; they represent the period since the Department began work.

18869. But what is the diagram to illustrate?—It illustrates the instruction in poultry-keeping.

18870. You seem to have got to a stationary position?—All the counties but three are now actually engaged in this work.

18871. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is not the result in eggs produced?—No. This (indicating) shows the number of egg stations. We will have to go back to the memorandum itself in order to find the exact number of eggs produced. That is on record.

18872. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—We do not want the facts now; we want to understand the system?—Yes. This (indicating) represents the number in 1905-6, there are more in the current year, there are 606 poultry farms.

18873. And how many in the previous years?—668; 362; 230; 39; and in the first year there were none at all.

18874. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—There has been a steady development?—Yes.

18875. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—And you have nearly come to your limit?—Yes.

18876. Is money?—We have come to the limit in money.

18877. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you know the effect on the export of eggs?—The effect on the export of eggs is somewhat difficult to get at. This is the first year the return of exported eggs has been published, and it shows the value of eggs and fowl exported to be about two and three-quarter million pounds sterling in 1904. We have no previous returns to compare that with, but we have ample evidence to show that the effect of this instruction has been very beneficial. Only this morning a letter came to me from a farm in England asking what was the cause of the extraordinary improvement in Irish birds and eggs. The writer thought the improvement was so great that it might be possible to extend it to every district. That was quite unbidden.

18878. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Have you been able to assure the market in England that the eggs are sent across fresh?—We have not, but we are working at that. That is to be done through organization. That can only be done by organization.

18879. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is fattening done in Ireland?—Fattening is also being attended to. It is all on the notes. This diagram (indicating) shows the progress that has been made in instruction in butter-making, home dairying—that is to say—not of creameries. This (indicating) represents the number of counties annually taking up the work. At first there was only one, last year there were 24, and for the current year there are 28 counties at work—again showing a very great increase.

18880. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Taking up the work?—Yes.

18881. To what extent in each county do they take up the work?—In each county they appoint one or two, or in some cases, three itinerant instructors in butter-making. In County Mayo they have three. The instructors go round, taking an outfit with her, and is able to take a number of pupils, teaching them for a fortnight or longer if the County Committee so desire. They actually teach them how to convert the cream into butter. That is our system; it is all described in this scheme.

18882. Where does she teach. Where does she see the pupils? does she go to a farmhouse?—She goes to a convenient centre; sets up her establishment there, and the girls come in.

18883. Does she take a room?—Yes.

18884. And who supplies her with the milk?—The pupils bring the milk.

18885. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And then keep the butter?—Yes. Of course, the local details are left to the local authorities; I am only outlining the general scheme.

18886. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—How many instructors have County Mayo appointed?—Three.

18887. Only three?—Three.

18888. For the whole county?—Yes. Of course, they are able to do a good deal by going round from district to district. In about twelve lessons you could very well teach a girl how to make butter, assuming she is not incapable to begin with. Then instruction in horticulture—which again, is set out in the Memorandum with all details—is represented by this (indicating). That (indicating) shows the number of instructors, and the number of counties that have taken up the scheme year by year. At first there were none, and gradually the number has increased.

18889. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Now we come to the question of the teacher difficulty?—Yes. The Committee cannot have failed to observe that while describing the work of the local authorities, repeated reference has been made to the fact that the number of counties taking up these schemes is far short of what would have been the case had there been a supply of qualified teachers. As, however, no provision had been made in Ireland for the training of such officers, County Committees had either to wait until the Department trained Irish men and women as teachers and instructors, or they had to obtain them from Great Britain. A very great deal has been heard on this subject. The fact is that the officers of the Department have again and again brought their influence to bear on the County Committees, as well as on individual members thereof, to wait until Irish

men and women were trained before getting their schemes of instruction into operation. The truth is that these members of the County Committees who are genuinely concerned in the success of the work do not care what the nationality of their instructor is so long as they get good ones.

19890. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—What is the reason for asking committee to delay doing anything until Irish men and women were trained, when they could get instructors from Great Britain?—The reason is that if you begin a system and it gets discredited in the first years, you have far greater difficulty in reviving it afterwards.

19891. But why should an efficient teacher coming from Great Britain produce that result?—You mean why should the Department encourage County Committees to wait until Irishmen were qualified?

19892. We want to know the reason why the Department has assumed that attitude and asked the County Committees to defer doing anything until the future when a sufficient number of Irish men and women shall have been trained?—Simply because the native is more popular.

19893. But the County Committee represents county opinion, does it not?—Yes.

19894. If the County Committees would prefer to get teachers from Great Britain rather than wait, why should the Department use its influence to prevent their doing so?—I will tell you one reason why. We have in Ireland, in the Royal College of Science, 26 young men being trained; we have also a great number of young Irishmen being trained in Glamorgan; and we have a great number of women being trained in the Manser Institute. If these positions are permanently filled up by persons from Great Britain we will not have employment for our own men and women when they are trained. That is one answer. But there is another answer. The people prefer having native teachers, and the Department fall in with their wishes.

19895. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You thought it better to wait until native teachers were ready rather than risk discrediting the system by beginning sooner with English teachers?—That is so.

19896. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Your first answer I can understand, but your second answer, I confess, I am at a loss to understand; it seems inconsistent. If a County Committee wish to get a teacher from Great Britain, why should you object on the ground that local feeling is against it, seeing that the County Committee represents local feeling; that is my point?—We have not objected outright. We have never prevented a single County Committee from getting a teacher from Great Britain; as a matter of fact, a very large number of County Committees have imported teachers.

19897. But you have brought your influence to bear to prevent their doing so when the County Committees wished to do it?—I have repeatedly so advised members of County Committees when they have come into my office. Whatever one may think privately, there is a body of feeling in a county that it is better to wait for Irish men and women. We are training them, and we will not have any positions for these if teachers are imported.

19898. That is a reason I understand?—I have urged it.

19899. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I understand there have been County Committees prepared to import teachers at once and who preferred to have them rather than wait for the education of the native teacher?—Yes, that is so.

19900. And yet, anticipating local opposition, you tell them to wait. Do you think that is wise?—We have a number of Irishmen being trained. In the early years we had not, and Scotchmen and Englishmen were imported by County Committees who advertised in the newspapers in Great Britain for such officers, and we offered no objection. In the meantime we have filled our colleges with young men, and a large number of them will be coming out next year. Two or three County Committees this winter have again proposed to advertise in Great Britain, in order to get agricultural instructors, and we have said, "If you wait until next spring, you shall have Irish trained men."

19901. When you have made that explanation you have discharged your duty, have you not, as far as the sentimental feeling is concerned?—Yes.

19902. If, notwithstanding that explanation, a County Committee wished to advertise and import a teacher, would you stand in their way?—No; we have never done so. We merely advise. But there is another reason. The demand for those instructors in Great Britain and elsewhere is so great that we run the chance of getting only the poorer class from Great Britain. If we could always get the first class products of English colleges we might be a little less reluctant to have them.

19903. Do you find that young men of promise and of capacity are coming into your college in sufficient numbers to supply the future demands?—Oh, yes. There are twenty-nine at present undergoing a three years' course of training in the Royal College of Science; thirty-four have been turned out and are in the employment of the Department. The moment the twenty-nine are out we can find them immediate employment; every Committee is ready to appoint more men.

19904. Do these young men when you employ help you keep in touch with the College of Science?—They do.

19905. Have you a system for keeping them in touch?—We bring them up annually; we have conferences.

19906. A sort of post-graduate training?—There is not so much post-graduate training as I should like, but we are going to put in a fourth year at the College of Science. It has been a three years' course hitherto, and the fourth year is to be a post-graduate course.

19907. Will that not lead to increased expenditure? Will the men demand higher salaries?—That may be so, but if they are more efficient I think they ought to get larger salaries.

19908. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then you say that the agitation assumed an extreme form in one county, viz., Donegal, where exception was taken to the appointment of any person not a native of the county. In the beginning the Department did not object to the appointment of persons in their native county, provided they had the necessary qualifications. Experience, however, showed that there were great drawbacks to this system. In the first place natives are too well known to their neighbours usually to be effective teachers. Secondly, the whole success of the scheme depends upon having an officer who is constantly moving about and visiting farmers, as well as giving lectures in the evenings. In some cases where the instructor had his or her home in the county there was a tendency to remain at home all day, and merely act as a lecturer and to do no itinerant work. The fact that the salary under the schemes covers the cost of maintenance has, of course, a strong tendency to induce an instructor who is a native of the county to be always at home. Thirdly, by far the greatest objection to the employment of the instructors in their own counties, is the fact that these officers have a considerable amount of patronage to bestow. Under the agricultural scheme the instructor has often to select the persons on whose farms the demonstrations and experiments are to be carried out, and as there are considerable sums expended on seeds and manures, it is a consideration to a small occupier to get these provided out of public funds. Under the poultry scheme premiums of 25 are given to persons who distribute eggs from a flock of birds which have to be approved by the instructor; and under the horticultural scheme there are demonstration plots for which trees and seeds are provided out of the public funds. That an instructor could exercise this patronage without being subjected to undue pressure from his friends, relatives, and supporters who desire these premiums, manures, seeds, and trees, is more than could be expected. Accordingly the Department have made it a rule that these instructors should not be natives of or residents in the county in which they work. Whether may be said is speeches intended for the Press, there are few people who do not recognise the need for such a rule. The County Committees referred to was written by the Vice-President to bring the matter before the Council of Agriculture—the body representative of all County Committees, before which questions involving principles and policy of the Department's schemes may be criticised.

19909. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In the spring of 1904 did the County Committee of Donegal, with the sanction of the Department, propose to appoint two

Feb 13, 1907.

Professors J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 18, 1907. **Instructions in butter-making**—I think you may take it that it was so.

19010. Were those appointments duly advertised?—By the County Committee, yes.

19011. Was it in the advertisement that candidates, if they had not already submitted to it, would be required to pass the examination of the Department?—It would be in the advertisement that they would have to pass the Department's test; that was always the case.

19012. Did the County Committee of Donegal in May, 1904, after such advertisement, appoint two instructors in butter-making?—Yes.

19013. Had any indication been given to the County Committee that candidates from the county were ineligible?—If you mean up to the time they were appointed, I do not think so.

19014. The County Committee had not been made aware of the rule?—Perhaps not. I am not prepared to say they were not; but it is quite possible that they were not.

19015. The County Committee appointed two girls, who were Irish-speaking living twenty miles apart from one another?—They appointed two girls; I will take it from you they were Irish-speaking.

19016. Is this passage contained in a letter from the Department on the subject, dated May 28, to the Secretary of the County Committee?—I have to point out that as a result of the experience of the operations of the 1902-03 scheme in several counties in which local candidates were employed as instructors, the Department found it necessary, with a view to the more efficient working of the scheme, to make a rule that in the case of all new appointments under the 1903-04 scheme no person shall be eligible to take up duty in the county in which he or she is resident; and in view of this resolution neither of the candidates selected by the Committee is eligible for employment in County Donegal, and the appointments accordingly cannot be issued by the Department. Is that so?—That is so.

19017. Does not that state that the rule was made in consequence of the unfavourable experience of the Department in the preceding year, 1902-03?—Yes, I should say so; certainly previous experience led them to take that decision.

19018. Is there any doubt about it?—I do not think there is any doubt about it in my own mind.

Sir FRANCES MOWATT.—The Bishop's question is whether it is contained in the letter.

19019. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—As the result of their experience in 1902-03?—I have no doubt it was; I have not the letter before me.

19020. The rule was then adopted as the result of their experience in the preceding year, because the result of that experience would be unknown until the end of 1903, and we are now at the beginning of 1904. Then I will trouble you to refer to another letter, which I am sure you have, sent out by the Department on July 4, 1904. Do those words occur in that letter: "I have to state that the rule that a resident in a county is not eligible for employment as instructor therein in connection with agricultural schemes has been in operation in the case of new appointments for the past two years, and the Department do not consider it advisable at present to modify it."—Well, I have not the correspondence before me, but if you have read it from our correspondence, it is so.

19021. The County Committee had no information of the rule, and these two letters are not on all fours?—In what way?

19022. In one letter it is stated that the rule is adopted as the result of the previous year's experience?—May I ask how the word is spelt; is it "year's" or "years"?

19023. Let there should be any mistake I will read it again. "I have to point out that as a result of their experience of the operations of the 1902-03 scheme."

In the second letter it is stated that the rule has been in operation for two years. Now, finally, in a letter in August giving various reasons to the Department for the appointments they had made those words occur: "We further desire to point out that while it is stated that this rule has been in force for two years, the Department only a few months ago sanctioned the appointment of an instructor under an agricultural scheme who was a resident in the county."—Is that in one of our letters?

19024. No; that is a letter sent by the County Committee to you, and it has never been contradicted?

—Perhaps you will tell me which is the appointment referred to.

19025. It was not at all a successful appointment?—I do not mean that; I am not referring to the question of success. What was the subject?

19026. Bee-keeping?—Oh, yes, in regard to bee-keeping we do make an exception, because the cost of having a separate instructor in bee-keeping is so very great. You cannot have a man under 25s. a week, and expenses may be nearly 15s. a day, and bee-keeping will not afford that. In regard to this subject, we are not so stringent; we are glad to get anyone in the district who knows a little about bee-keeping; it is not on the same footing as other subjects.

19027. That is quite reasonable. In all this correspondence does the Department ever explain that to this County Committee?—I hope you don't mean it was purposely kept back.

19028. I know you have a great deal to do, but I ask you to view the matter from the point of view of an intelligent man on that Committee in County Donegal. That man has this before him; no notification of the rule had reached the Committee; secondly, there are two letters about the date of the rule, which are not on all fours; thirdly, he had this point before his mind, that his Committee did two months before appoint an instructor in bee-keeping, without any disclaimer on the part of the Department, and without any explanation that bee-keeping was different from anything else?—Of course, if the charge is that the Department have been discourteous to the County Committee, I am very sorry indeed; but I am sure if your lordship and myself had had a talk for five minutes it would have been set right. I am not aware, unfortunately, that you and I have had any correspondence or talk on the subject.

19029. I should be as glad of a talk or correspondence as you. I don't deal in instructions at all, and I am most anxious for the success of your work. Am not your scheme in operation in County Donegal, except the scheme for agricultural instruction?—There is a live stock scheme, small farm prices, shows, and fairs.

19030. These are all in operation?—Yes.

19031. Your difficulty is about the instructors?—The instruction part.

19032. No regret has been at any time expressed to the Committee for anything of this sort?—I am prepared to express all the regret that is required.

19033. I don't at all expect the like of that myself, and shall gladly as far as I can when we have gone into the facts co-operate with you in trying to set things going; but as the matter has been so often discussed it is well the facts should be clear. Now, next as regards that interesting paragraph that you wrote about the advantages of not having persons doing work in their own localities, does that apply to instruction in butter-making?—Not so much in butter-making as in the other subjects.

19034. Is not the fact that all this difficulty arose out of the appointment of two instructors in butter-making?—It might have arisen, but if the butter-making instructors had been appointed what guarantee had we that the others would not be appointed from the county. I admit it was over these two that the Department and the County Committee first began to differ; but you must bear in mind this, that the rule was in force in the other counties and the other counties accepted the rule and welcomed the rule, and it would not do for the Department to make an exception in the case of Donegal, however desirable from another point of view.

19035. Have you yourself suggested before another Commission of Inquiry that each of these girls might be appointed to a part of the county different from that to which the belonged?—Yes. We did so in Cork.

19036. Has the Department ever suggested to the Donegal Committee that one of these girls might be appointed to one side of the county and the other to the other, the place of appointment in each case differing from the place of activity?—No, because we are not yet satisfied that these girls are qualified.

19037. If you like I will go into that, but I don't think it affects the case. Bearing on the issue, did the Donegal Committee suggest a way out of the difficulty? Did they propose that the Parliamentary constituency should be treated as a unit instead of the county, so that by no chance could one of these

girls be doing work in her own neighbourhood?—Yes; that is so.

19638. Would that have the effect of avoiding those difficulties if they exist?—I think it would. Certainly if the practical suggestion to appoint, say, a girl from the north to the south, and a girl from the south to the north had come before me I would have approved of it.

19639. Did you notice that the County Committee did not want to exclude those from the outside. They only want their own to be eligible?—None but their own applied.

19640. They did not put in anything like "none but Donegal girls need apply." Did you notice that was the attitude of the Committee? Did they put forward as a reason for the appointments that the knowledge of the girls of the local Irish spoken in the poorer districts was rather a qualification for instructresses in Donegal?—Perhaps they did.

19641. There is no great need to go into the merits of the rule, because I am largely in sympathy with part of the paragraph you have read, but I might point out that National teachers are appointed in their own localities, that boys are appointed to the post office in their own localities; that various officers are appointed under the Local Government Board in connection with dispensaries in their own localities, and that under the technical branch of the Department girls are employed as instructresses in their own localities. Now, with all that before you, is there any good reason for excluding girls from teaching butter-making in their own localities?—It is not butter-making alone. It is the other subjects I am thinking of more than butter-making, such as horticulture, demonstration plots, and poultry-keeping.

19642. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What patronage would they have in those cases?—Let us take the poultry-keeping. I am sorry to say there are none in Donegal, but in other counties there are several hundreds of these farms which exist for the purpose of distributing settings of eggs. The persons holding these farms must get together a number of birds that must be approved of by the instructor. The person who gets the farms often gets a house, not the whole cost of the house, but he gets a portion of the cost of a house in order that he may have a proper system of keeping the birds. An instructor would perhaps be asked to approve of inferior birds offered by her relatives, and those birds if passed by her receive a premium of 2s.

19643. Is it an instructor or instructress is appointed?—Usually they are girls.

19644. Suppose she came from an adjoining county, and she had these things to distribute, she would have just as great opportunities for dishonesty?—There is no dishonesty about it. It is pressure that is brought to bear upon her by her friends.

19645. That is dishonesty?—It is a fine point whether it is dishonesty or not.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think the explanations that have taken place on both sides cannot fail to be of use, but after the explanation that there has been a misunderstanding between the County Committee and the Department, I think I express the feeling of the Committee when I say we hope there will be no further difficulty in the particular case. A definite offer has been made, which, I understand you to say, if it had come before you, would have cleared the difficulty. Now that that offer has been made, and if the posts have not been filled otherwise than by those two ladies—

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—No, they have not been. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Your lordship approves of the general principle, but there must be an exception to every general rule. The exception has been brought to Mr. Campbell's notice, and he approves of it.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is the difference between your lordship and me. I don't approve of the principle.

19646. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you accept then the suggestion of the Committee that the Parliamentary constituency be made the unit?—For butter-making?

19647. Yes?—Yes.

19648. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I hope I am not going beyond the convenience of the Chairman when I call your attention to this, if you accept it all round the Department could very largely have its own way. Suppose you agree that no instructor is to be appointed in the Parliamentary division of birth or

residence, if there is only one instructor in the county the instructor must come, as a rule, from outside the county.

19649. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The suggestion as regards these two particular women is that each of them should operate and do her work in the part of the county to which she does not belong?—That is easily done, but that would not get us out of the difficulty, I am afraid. There is the difficulty of getting qualified teachers. Then there is the further difficulty if the rule is to apply to horticulture, poultry-keeping, and agricultural instruction, where there is a great deal more to be given away than in butter-making, this difficulty arises, that the penny rate in Donegal raises £1,300. The Department is able to give up to the present about £1,300. That makes a total of £2,600. You will find when you provide for your live stock scheme, your flax scheme, and one or two other schemes with which there is no trouble at all, there will be very little left for instruction, only sufficient perhaps for two teachers—one for butter-making and horticulture and one for poultry-keeping.

19650. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you suggest the result would be where you have only one instructor that she should not operate in her own Parliamentary division or should be taken from outside the county?—Obviously, if there is only one teacher, he or she must sometimes work in his or her own district.

19651. Suppose that instructor is taken from outside the county?—Then there is no difficulty.

19652. If there is no difficulty in accepting the regulation that an agricultural instructor is not to work in his or her own Parliamentary division?—That would exclude a native of Donegal if there is but one instructor.

19653. That is the proposition of the County Committee to you?—That may mean what I have just said.

19654. If that is the intention from it, by all means?—Your lordship's proposal is only another way of putting it.

19655. I think it is right that the attitude of the County Committee should be fairly understood. It was suggested that the question might be referred to the Council of Agriculture; that is on the notes?—It is.

19656. Is not one-third of the Council nominated by the Department?—Yes.

19657. Now, in view of the little errors to which I have called your attention in the correspondence, do you think was not it rather natural for the County Committee to shy at that reference?—I don't think that they should. Apart from the fact that that two-thirds of it are elected, the other fact remains that the one-third that are appointed have again and again voted on questions contrary to the way the Department would like, and the Department accept their judgment. The Vice-President of the Department, when appointing these gentlemen, never for a moment expected that they would support his policy.

19658. Put yourself in the position of the man on that Committee, don't you think that would be a reasonable feeling?—There is no reason for it, but if they had the feeling—

19659. Some account should be made of it?—Yes.

19660. What the County Committee did was to send out their resolution to other Committees in Ireland, and by a large majority they approved of it?—I can tell you a story about that. I can tell you of conversations I had with individuals on County Committee who, although they may not have voted against the resolution, have begged the Department to keep the rule in operation. They say their lives would be made miserable by the number of local applicants waiting this post or that.

19661. That would not be on the merits. It would be only on the ground of relieving these people from complaining?—That alone shows that the somewhat resolution—

19662. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Pardon me if I draw attention to the fact that we have got away from the original subject of discussion, which was whether in the case of these particular ladies instructresses an arrangement could not be made of putting an end to a misunderstanding that has existed. I am rather in hopes from what we have heard that that is possible?—Yes.

19663. We have now passed away from that to a general discussion?—Let me say most assuredly I am

Feb. 18, 1947.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

July 16, 1907.
 President J.
 R. Campbell.

sincerely sorry that the County Committee should have any feeling over the matter, because I can assure your lordship that that was not in the minds of the Department's officers. The truth is in the first year this branch of the Department consisted of Mr. Gordon and myself, and the shade of a clerk at night. It has been all along next to impossible to get clerical assistance out of the Treasury. I am bound to say I did not see some of these letters before they went out. I can assure you their contents were unknown to me personally, and absolutely unknown to the Vice-President of the Department and I am very sorry that the County Committee should have any feelings over the matter. Nothing was further from our thoughts. I feel sure that if I myself had had an opportunity of meeting Mr. Gordon or of meeting your lordship and discussing the question this difficulty could have been swept away. In future I hope there will be some means of getting a little more in direct touch with you.

19064. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Surely it is a safe procedure always to accept the nomination of the Committee of the County Council as an appointing body; there is no difficulty in that?—No.

19065. It is a very rare thing for a public Department to go beyond the officer who has the nomination; you must know that as a matter of procedure, I suppose. If in a large department there is a sub-department the head of the department in making an appointment will surely accept the nomination of the chief of the sub-department?—In other words, should I recommend a certain person to the Secretary of the Department, my immediate superior, he would approve of it?

19066. He would think twice before disapproving of it?—He would go very carefully into it.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Surely any thing that comes from the County Committee in the same way comes to your Department with a certain amount of authority.

19067. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Assuming always it is within the established rules. Perhaps we can pass from this incident now?—I don't accept Mr. Sutherland's statement.

19068. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I think an outside County Council should have more authority than anyone inside the Department?—No; there are the technical qualifications. That is why I cannot accept Mr. Sutherland's statement. The County Committee's recommendations should not be approved of without the person nominated having been subjected to an examination as to his or her technical qualifications.

19069. No; I am not referring to that. You, of course, are perfectly right to judge of the qualifications, but surely you are not going to reject any person within the area that the Committee themselves represent. It is a rather serious thing?—Yes, but it is also a very serious matter that the responsibility for the administration of these schemes rests upon the Department and not on the County Committee.

19070. It should not?—But it does.

19071. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—The cost of the Department is not merely a matter of local rates, but you are dealing also with Imperial money?—We are.

19072. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But also with local rates. Surely to that extent the local committee is entitled to consideration?

19073. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We have got these schemes. We don't propose to go into them?—Except that I want to say that in the case of the live stock scheme, as in that of the instruction schemes, progress has been made, as will be seen by the diagrams.

19074. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You are heading in these diagrams?—Certainly. I won't enter into the Live Stock Schemes further than refer to the Horse Breeding Schemes in which we register stallions. The diagram here represents the progress that has been made in the introduction of good sires into the country. The black (indicates) represents the agricultural horses, agricultural sires, Clydesdales, and so on; the red represents the thoroughbred animals. When we started in 1901 there were only thirteen of one breed and ninety-seven of the other. Now we have 76 of the one and 163 of the other, and in 1905-07, the inspection for which is going on at present, the number will be largely increased. These figures apply to congested and non-congested areas alike. With regard to the system of nomination for mares that (indicates diagram) shows the operations that have taken place. There were 1,566 of these nominations in the first year. Now

there are 3,783, and the money of course has increased proportionately.

19075. In the case of all these tables we may take it that the progress which they illustrate has been accompanied by an increase in expenditure?—Yes, and along with that there is increased efficiency. The money is being better spent every year.

19076. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What means have you of testing that?—In this way. Take for example the nomination system. We hold about 350 sires every spring to which these mares come, and we send a veterinary surgeon who inspects them.

19077. I understand that Ireland is a country that exports horses largely?—Yes.

19078. How much is the export? Has it increased, and if so, what is the value of the increase?—I have not these figures by me.

19079. The result is really the thing we are interested in?—And also to apply your own argument that the opinion of the local committees and county committees are of great weight. That represents the gradual development in the opinion of the county committees. They have a desire to avail themselves of these schemes.

19080. Is that the whole element in it; does not it also represent the increased opportunities that are given to them?—Yes. It represents the increased number of good sires in the country.

19081. It does not touch the result. I know that Irish horses were largely exported, and what I would like to know is has that increased owing to your efforts?—It has perhaps decreased owing to the way the country was damaged of horses during the war. Since the war the export of horses to England may have gone down, but that would not affect my statement.

19082. Does the introduction of motor traffic interfere with it?—It does not interfere with hunting. It interferes with coaching horses. The next scheme is the cattle scheme at page 24. I have diagrams here which illustrate the progress that has been made under that scheme in the introduction of high-class bulls under the premium system which every County Committee is carrying out, and on which every County Committee wants to spend more and more yearly. This (indicates) represents the number of bulls standing for service for small farmers' cows at a fee of a shilling. Our difficulty here is to get bulls. The demand has been so great. There is the sire scheme. Premium loans have been given out each year.

19083. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the cause of the drop in these?—We started by giving £5 premium for one year, and it was evidently not sufficient inducement. We increased it to £3. The £3 made it jump up again. A great deal has been done by the Department to encourage agricultural shows, small shows. In the first year there were sixty-one of these, and last year there were 140.

19084. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What sort of assistance do you give?—We give £5,000 a year to the County Committees to be distributed by them to agricultural shows in the counties.

19085. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—£5,000 among all the counties of Ireland?—Yes.

19086. How do you apportion the £5,000 between the counties: is it by giving an equal amount to each?—No.

19087. What regulates the amount?—I have dealt with that. What we usually do is the Agricultural Board vote a sum for shows. Then we take the valuation of the county and the live stock, and we divide the £5,000 first on the basis of valuation, and then we divide it on the basis of stock, and we take the mean of it and give the county that amount.

19088. You don't take into account the general character of the county and the character of the holdings; do you apply that principle equally to the province of Leinster and Connaught, to Meath, Mayo, and Galway?—The only difference is that in Mayo and Galway they receive more than in the other counties you mention. You receive three-fifths.

19089. You do take into consideration the character of the county?—Yes. The western counties get more than the other counties. I need not refer to the Fertilisers Act. I now come to the table on which you will find the allocation of the funds by all these County Committees, and you will see there that the congested counties, the seven counties to which I devote special attention, are brought together at the top of the table for easy reference. From that table you will see exactly what each County Committee has pro-

posed to do during the ensuing year. For 1906-07 you will see the schemes they have adopted and the schemes rejected, and the amounts they have set aside, and it also shows the rate that is raised.

19901. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I notice that the schemes for the improvement of the houses are adopted by almost every county?—Yes.

19902. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Has there been any overlapping up to this?—It has not been serious at any rate—I mean not so serious that we have had to take action about it, but we do fear that it is bound sooner or later.

19903. I am talking of the past?—In the past I don't think so. The schemes of the Department have not been very extensively taken up in Donegal.

19904. Has there been any overlapping in the farm improvement schemes?—No serious overlapping. Donegal is spending on the Parish Committee scheme nearly £2,000, and under the County Committee they are spending £500 on a similar scheme. I put it to you there is bound to be overlapping, and it is at any rate a most wasteful system to have two public bodies applying money to one and the same purpose. I really think there should be some means of amalgamating the two.

19905. There does not seem to be much waste in the congested districts?—My point is there will be as the work develops.

19906. Do you know that a great deal of the money expended by the County Committee under the supervision of the Department for these farm improvements goes to the non-congested area in Donegal?—It ought not, because part of the rate is raised in the congested districts.

19907. A great deal of the £500 goes to the non-congested area?—Whatever portion the County Committee devote to it, but I presume that the representatives from the congested districts of Donegal see that they get their fair share of the £500. If not they are not doing their duty.

19908. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—If there was to be one body administering it would you not think it should be the body that is giving the most money?—That is merely a matter of who happens to have the best endowment at the time.

19909. And gives the most benefit—what do you say to that alternative?—The £500, however small it may be, represents some of the ratepayers' money while the other does not.

19910. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I was anxious to ask you if you have many bee-keeping stations in the congested area?—That is referred to in part 2.

19911. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Perhaps you may pass to part 3?—There are first poultry, field experiments, and demonstrations. That (indicating diagram) represents experiments and demonstration plots under the County Committees, and the development since the Department began. I think it was Mr. Hyne who asked whether there were such things.

19912. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Perhaps before your evidence is completed you will be able to tell us how many of these demonstration plots are in congested areas in different localities?—Certainly. The red represents the experimental plots, and the black the demonstration plots. On the red ones the land is very accurately measured, and every thing that is done is noted, the size of the plots, the weight of the manures and of the crops, &c., so order that we may have more definite conclusions on them than we can on the demonstration plots which farmers merely inspect and estimate the results for themselves.

19913. How do you acquire plots?—The itinerant instructor gets them from farmers.

19914. Does he pay rent?—No. They usually give them in exchange for manure and seeds. It is carried out under the supervision of the agricultural instructor.

19915. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—To get the produce?—To get the produce. Then there is barley-growing, early potato-growing, fruit-growing, vegetable preservation, cheese-making, tobacco cultivation, the pest industry, the fattening of poultry, and the improvement in the management of creameries.

19916. Mr. KAVANAGH.—About the fattening of poultry—is it on the increase?—There are not very many stations that have been at work for a long time. One or two of them are making favourable progress, but I could not say that any of them are out of danger or safely launched. Our object is to

send the birds fattened to England rather than send them to England to be fattened there.

19917. Most of our export is stored here?—It is nearly all store fowl.

19918. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Where are the stations?—Our school is at Avondale, in Wicklow, and we train managers for these poultry stations, and wherever a person is found who is willing to put capital into the business of poultry fattening, the Department, if they have the man at all, give the person the free use of an expert for one year. But we don't start it until we get someone in the locality, be it co-operative society or individual, to put up the money and the premises to carry on the business.

19919. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you see any reason why poultry fattening would not succeed as much in Ireland as in England?—I see no reason whatever.

19920. You think there is something in it?—Yes.

19921. Because they fatten in England?—Yes.

19922. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—In reference to the pest industry, I see you say that, acting on the advice of Continental experts, the Department have rented a bog in the centre of Ireland where they have erected peat fust machinery and demonstrated the most successful Continental process. What does that mean?—In certain parts of the Continent peat is manufactured by machinery, not in the ordinary way. We have brought over that machinery.

19923. Do the words mean they demonstrated the success of the process?—No. They demonstrated the system.

19924. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is that the system of making briquettes of ordinary peat?—The ordinary peat briquettes have not been found to be profitable. The only profitable form of the industry is to make fuel, litter, and dung.

19925. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And brown paper?—And brown paper to some extent.

19926. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I would like to see in Ireland a factory of that kind going?—A peat factory!

19927. Yes?—You would see a very good one near Portladora.

19928. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And one for manufacturing paper at Colbridge?—Yes.

19929. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is the Portladora factory commercially successful?—I am sure it is, from the amount of capital that the owner is putting into it, and the enthusiasm displayed. It has been going for some years.

19930. Is it a very expensive process?—The power is expensive, but the actual machinery is not expensive.

19931. Are the by-products valuable?—The products are peat dust, which is used for packing fruit, &c., and peat moss litter, and fuel. Now I come to part II, of my memorandum—the working of the Act in the congested districts. That is at page 40. What I have said so far relates to both non-congested and congested districts, but now I propose to deal more closely with the operation of the work in congested districts. I begin by saying that these diagrams I have shown you are, in the opinion of the Department, a complete justification of the system which has been adopted of the administration through County Committees. In the early years progress was slow, but as the procedure became understood there has been a rapid increase in the volume as well as in the quality of the work done. Of the thirty-three County Committees only one or two have held back, while in all the others there has been an increase not only in the work as a whole, but in every section of it. In this part of the evidence attention is directed specially to the seven counties mainly congested, viz., Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Galway and Kerry. For the sake of clearness Cork and Clare are omitted, as the non-congested portions of these two counties being very small, to include them would only obscure the picture. The system adopted by the Department with regard to these counties was in the early years the same as for the whole of the rest of Ireland, viz., the administration of schemes through the local authorities. But in these districts there are difficulties to be overcome which did not present themselves in the rest of the country, and if the County Committees of these seven counties, notwithstanding these difficulties, have made progress proportionate to that of other counties, there is the more credit due to them. As a matter of fact it may be said at once that notwithstanding the special difficulties of the situation, the progress in the work that

Feb. 16, 1907.

Professor J. E. Campbell.

Feb. 18, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

has been attained in all these countries—as will be shown directly by figures—will bear comparison with that of other countries where the people live under more favourable conditions. There are two distinct periods to be considered—first the period before, and secondly, the period since 1894. Any representative institution which could come through the complications and confusion which arose owing to the wording of the Act creating the Department, must have in it a vitality capable of surmounting any administrative difficulty that can possibly arise. The difficulty was caused by what appears to have been an oversight in the drafting of the Act of 1890. It has already been referred to by the Vice-President of the Department, and need only be very briefly mentioned here.* The situation was this—the Department's agricultural endowment of £100,000 was earmarked for the non-congested portions of Ireland, and could not therefore be applied to an area scheduled as congested. Neither could the Department apply funds to a district in respect of which a rate was not raised for the purposes of their Act. But the unit of area adopted in scheduling a district as congested (an electoral division) was not co-extensive with the unit of rating under the Local Government Act (a rural district). Some way had to be found out of the difficulty, and it was accordingly decided to raise the rate for the purpose of the Department's work over the non-congested and mainly non-congested rural districts, and to exclude the congested and mainly congested rural districts. In accordance therewith the non-congested portions of the mainly congested rural districts were excluded from the rate and from the purview of the County Committee, while the congested portions of the mainly non-congested districts were rated, but could receive no funds from the Department. To obviate this difficulty as far as possible, the Congested Districts Board agreed to contribute pro rata in respect of the congested portions of the areas included in the districts over which a rate was raised. This arrangement, which was the only practical one in the circumstances, gave rise to a great deal of correspondence between the three bodies concerned, viz., the Department, the Congested Districts Board and the County Committee of Agriculture. The County Committee's scheme had to be sanctioned by the Congested Districts Board, as they were contributing in respect of the congested districts, while the whole scheme of the County Committee had likewise to be sanctioned by the Department. Lengthy correspondence was entailed by this procedure, and overlapping with the schemes of the Congested Districts Board in the congested portions of the mainly non-congested rural districts could not be avoided. The situation was further complicated by the fact that County Councils from the congested rural districts could attend meetings of the County Councils and if they thought proper vote against the proposals for raising a rate, and so block all schemes in the non-congested portions of the county. Many members of County Committees failed to understand the meaning of the procedure, and the people of the localities concerned were wholly bewildered by it. In 1902 an Act was passed enabling County Councils to include all non-congested, and to exclude all congested, electoral divisions from the rate. The Congested Districts Board concluded that there were serious practical objections to two independent schemes for similar work being carried concurrently in the same district, and they therefore intimated to the County Councils that in future the Board would discontinue their contribution towards schemes of the County Committee. In November of the following year, however, the Land Act came into operation, and Clause 85 of this Act repealed Section 16 of the Act of 1890. It was therefore no longer illegal for the Department to spend money in congested areas. It was obvious, however, that if the Congested Districts Board and the County Committee continued to apply funds for the same purpose, overlapping and confusion would arise. But this difficulty was obviated by the fact that the Congested Districts Board in October, 1903, decided that their funds, hitherto applied to agricultural development, should in future be diverted from that purpose and be applied to the primary purpose of land purchase and the relief of congestion. This question has already been dealt with by the Vice-President of the Department, and it is therefore unnecessary to go into it in great detail on the present occasion. The evidence that has been given, however, particularly that from Deangal, shows

that many of the witnesses do not yet seem to fully understand the situation as it existed previous to or since 1894. Moreover, none of the witnesses in comparing the work of the County Committees and of the Congested Districts Board appeared to understand the arrangement which was made with that Board in October, 1903, and which is set forth in Mr. Wyndham's minute which is printed in the Appendix to the First Report of the Royal Commission (Cd. 2867, 1905, p. 269). In this connection, therefore I may be permitted to ask the Commission to bear in mind the following facts—1. In 1904 the Congested Districts Board had been at work twelve years, and the County Committee only two or three years. 2. The work of the seven County Committees is rapidly increasing in volume as will be shown presently. It would have been greater to-day but for (1) the confusion created by the operations of two public bodies during the first year; and (2) the fact that the people in those districts had for twelve years been accustomed to seek and obtain relief and assistance from a central department and that time must be given them to get accustomed to the change brought about by the introduction of representative institutions.

20022. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Congested Districts Board does not give money in relief. Perhaps you did not mean to use the word in a technical sense?—No, I did not.

20023. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What do you call the representative institutions?—The County Committees through whom the Department works. The Department works through these by statute.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I don't see how they are representative.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Members of the County Council.

20024. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But as members they are not an ad hoc body.—They are surely representative of the people. 3. The Congested Districts Board had a sum for the improvement of agriculture in the congested districts very much greater than that available to County Committees. On agricultural development alone the Board spent £11,000 per annum, but only £2,000 of this sum was given to the Department to carry on the work. 4. In Mr. Wyndham's memorandum, to which reference has been made, it is stated that as "the primary work of the Congested Districts Board is completed further funds will be available for pushing on the secondary work of Agriculture and Technical Instruction." Until this policy has been carried out, or until the Department obtain funds from some other source no comparison can be fairly instituted between the work of the County Committees and the work formerly done by the Congested Districts Board. 5. The Congested Districts Board concurred in the policy outlined in the memorandum in question. In this document it is specifically stated that "they" (the congested districts) would have to surrender "in respect of agricultural schemes a part of their" "right to preferential treatment" until the primary work of land purchase and relief of congestion had been effected.

20025. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I should like to know where are these words found?—These are words taken from Mr. Wyndham's minute.

20026. I do not see them in the minute?—I hope I have not misquoted them, but I was present at the meeting, and Mr. Wyndham went so far as to say they would have to give up having so many bulls, as they already had enough, though that was not incorporated in the minute.

20027. Look at the minute (produced) and are if these words are there?—Yes: (reading).—"They will, however, surrender as respect of agricultural schemes a part of their right to preferential treatment."

20028. That is in Mr. Wyndham's letter—is that what you refer to?—Yes. That is taken from the minute. That is the policy which was concurred in by the Congested Districts Board, and which it was the duty of the Department of Agriculture to co-operate in carrying out. It was on this understanding, viz., that the congested districts would, for a time, have to forego part of their right to preferential treatment in respect of agricultural improvement and that in due course further funds would be "available" "for pushing on the secondary work of agriculture and technical instruction," that the Agricultural Board agreed to the proposals contained in Mr. Wyndham's minute. They were aware that the sum of

* See Appendix to Third Report of the Commission [Cd. 2414, 1907], pp. 126 & seq.

£2,000 was quite inadequate to meet the additional contribution from the Department towards expenditure by local authorities in respect of the congested areas, but in order to simplify procedure and to remove one of the greatest barriers to progress, viz., the confusion that has arisen in the minds of the people, the Agricultural Board cheerfully agreed to take a hand to make the county schemes complete. A comparison has also been made between the work of the Parish Committees and that of the County Committees. Parish Committees, however, have been in existence for five or six years, and their work was not considered successful at first, not until the people had become accustomed to the scheme.

20029. What reason have you for saying that their work was not considered successful at first?—I can find it in the evidence you have had.

20030. Any report that I have seen stated that the work was successful from the start?—In Mr. Doran's evidence page 323 he states with reference to the Parish Committees:—"It was very difficult during the first few years to get the work satisfactorily done, or in fact to have the scheme taken up at all with any degree of earnestness. The people thought the advances which it was possible for them to get too small. However, it began to take, and in every instance where it was well administered it has been a great success."

20031. That does not deny, although the difficulty was great, it was a success from the start where it was taken up?—I think these words are pretty clear.

20032. However, that is what you refer to?—Yes. As a matter of fact it is only natural it should be so. All the schemes of the Department had to undergo a year or two of trial before they got to be understood, and I think I am not saying anything against the work of the Parish Committees when I say it was not as successful in the first year as it would be a year or two afterwards. Moreover, the Congested Districts Board spend in congested areas as much on their Parish Committee scheme alone (£11,945), as the seven County Committees receive in contributions from the Department (£10,682) to spend on their ten schemes in both the congested and non-congested districts. I hope that fact will be borne in mind.

20033. Mr. STRATHMORE.—What inference do you wish us to draw from that?—That I don't expect the one-sixth of a pound will do as much as the whole pound.

20034. Quite so. It depends on how it is done?—But the point is you cannot expect it.

20035. No, not reasonably?—Indeed the joint fund in County Mayo for ten schemes amounts only to £2,745, while the Congested Districts Board vote for the Parish Committee scheme in that county a sum of £4,450.

20036. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Would you contrast your scheme with the Parish Committee scheme?—In what do they differ, and in what do they agree?—They differ in this, that under the Department's scheme the County Committee offer prizes for improvements in the buildings, on the homestead, and in the cultivation of the land. That is adjudicated on in the summer, and the most successful person receives the prize.

20037. Who adjudicates on it?—The adjudication is carried out by the itinerant instructor from a neighbouring county. One county lends its instructor to another.

20038. Is there any association of local people with him as assessors?—No; the County Committee have hitherto been satisfied to accept the decision of an itinerant instructor from another county.

20039. And what is done in the case of the Parish Committee scheme?—In the case of the Parish Committee scheme a sum of money is given as a contribution to each person who carries out an improvement.

20040. As a contribution towards the work?—Yes.

20041. Could you give an answer as to the comparative value of the work produced by the competing schemes—take a sum of £10 spent under each scheme—what would be the value of the work done in each case?—I could not say what the £10 would do under the Congested Districts Board scheme, but for that £10 there is almost no limit to the number of farmers who may compete for it, all trying to effect improvements to get the prize. The prize will perhaps eventually go to three of them, three of the best.

20042. But it exercises a stimulating influence?—It does, a very great influence, indeed.

20043. What is your own opinion as to the effect of the two schemes?—I am certainly very much in favour of the Department's scheme.

20044. That is the prize system?—Yes.

20045. Are you aware that the prize system is in force in Donegal?—Yes, in Donegal I believe it is, but not in other counties.

20046. Is there any point of difference between your scheme and the Parish Committee scheme in Donegal?—I think I am right in saying that whereas under the Department's scheme very few prizes are given, in Donegal, so large a number of prizes are given that it amounts practically to a bonus instead of a prize to a very large number of people who succeed in doing a certain amount of improvement.

20047. You mean there are fewer blanks in the Congested Districts Board scheme?—That is so.

20048. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think we were told in evidence that the contribution under the Parish Committee scheme generally amounts to about one-sixth the value of the work done?—There is no reason why the sums contributed by the local committee or the County Council might not be equal or greater.

20049. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—One could not be sure up to this that it is not less?—It might be less, but it might be a great deal more.

20050. In reference to the western scheme under which subsidies are given, would you consider that with a very poor population it would be exceedingly difficult to work a prize scheme?—No; not if given sufficient organisation. It would be difficult without organisation.

20051. How would the poorest class of holders make improvements in their homesteads without a little subsidy?—That may be, but if you refer to schemes which I have outlined here, which I propose for congested districts, there is no reason why they could not get a small loan towards that.

20052. Mr. STRATHMORE.—Who invented the system?—Which system?

20053. Of giving prizes, or of giving subsidies towards the improvement of houses?—I really could not tell you who invented it.

20054. When did they begin first?—They must have been begun by the Congested Districts Board. They have been about six or seven years at work. In fact I think they began in 1897.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Which, my lord, was prior in date of origin—the western scheme or the Donegal scheme?

20055. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The western scheme by some years. It was originally brought before us by Father O'Hara?—In this connection it should be stated that the Agricultural Board never for a moment contemplated that the Congested Districts Board would divert to Parish Committees for agricultural development any portion of the funds, which it was stated in Mr. Wyndham's minute were firstly to be applied to the "primary work of land purchase and the relief of congestion," and according as this work was being completed, were secondly to be "available for pushing on the secondary work of agricultural and technical instruction."

20056. Do you think it is a matter for the Agricultural Board?—No, not in their view. They were told by us that the money was to be given for land purchase.

20057. Are you aware that the Congested Districts Board has put into estate work all the money which the work that the Board could put forward in that direction demanded?—Perhaps you could tell me how much that is?

20058. I could not?—I am sorry I cannot just now.

20059. But I can assure you the estate work went on as fast as the machinery would allow, and it was fed with sufficient funds hitherto?—It was not necessary to draw on this £11,000, but that does not alter the fact that the Agricultural Board were induced to take over the work and subscribe to it on the understanding that it was really required for land purchase. I only wish on this to state a fact. I don't suggest anything.

20060. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—The inference lying on the surface, to which you must be held, is that you make a suggestion that the Congested Districts Board have not acted up to the terms of Mr. Wyndham's agreement?—I would not like to put it so strongly as that. When the proposal was put before

P.A. 18, 1907.

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Professor J.
E. Campbell.

Feb. 18, 1897.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

the Board they desired, but it was represented to them that it was required for the primary work.

20064. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is that?—Land purchase and relief of congestion.

20065. That is the migration of people, or the enlargement of holdings?—I should say both were understood.

20066. I think that is a reasonable construction to put upon the Act of Parliament—that that was the primary work?—I am taking the word "primary" from Mr. Wyndham's minute, in the sense in which he used it.

20067. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would not your agricultural body consider that by no chance could the primary work be done in two, three, four, five, or six years? Would not something like seven or eight years be necessary to have that primary work completed so matter with what expedition it was put forward?—Yes, and it rather seems to me to be a long time. When that bargain was made, I hold myself the view that it must be a long time, but the fact is so many claims have come upon the Department from the congested districts.

20068. Your Board could scarcely anticipate that it would be done in a great hurry?—No.

20069. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It was a provisional arrangement. It seemed fair at the time to all parties, but by that arrangement the Congested Districts Board were not precluded from proceeding with their other ameliorative measures besides mere migration?—I am afraid that the Department—

20070. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You may have held differently, but we don't admit the justice of your inference on that point.

20071. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is not the existence of Mr. Wyndham's minute an evidence that he himself was not satisfied with the rate at which the relief of congestion was going on?—Doubtless that was the reason that led the Congested Districts Board—

20072. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That was not the reason that led us to make the arrangement. The reason why the thing was introduced was that the Congested Districts Board wished to relieve itself as far as possible of functions which were not actually and directly connected with the purchase and acquisition of land, the improvement of land, migration, and the improvement in the condition of tenants, and we had regard to the fact that the Congested Districts Board is a transient body, and the Department of Agriculture is a permanent body, and would be the natural heir to the work of the Congested Districts Board when the Congested Districts Board had performed its functions, but we never limited ourselves as to the manner in which we would apply the funds that were left to us.

20073. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—So much is that the case that in a letter from Mr. Wyndham, I believe a letter to the Treasury, he stated he believed that portion of the increased funds should go to the Parish Committees scheme?—Well, there at any rate is the impression on our minds.

20074. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We shall have an opportunity of hearing Mr. Wyndham's views, as he is coming before us?—Of course the minute is the only thing we have to go by.

20075. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But they were the views of the Board, not merely Mr. Wyndham's personal views on the point. As a matter of fact the figures show we are not open to the conclusion which you draw, because I find that in the year 1904-5, which was the year in which this agreement was made, we spent upon Parish Committees £10,361, and in the last year we spent on Parish Committees £13,245, so there has been no such large allocation of additional funds to Parish Committees as you seem to infer?—May I ask how much was in it in 1903?

20076. It was not in 1903 that the thing was done?—It was in October, 1903, that the arrangement, I think, was made.

20077. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But it took effect afterwards.

20078. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In 1904 it took effect for the first time?—In 1903-4.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—An important point was the amount the Congested Districts Board had spent up to that time, the number of years they had been in existence, and the amount of money they had spent on general improvements, and the purchase of land and migration respectively up to the date of Mr. Wyndham's minute.

20079. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—We did not adopt any self-denying ordinance in making that compact with the Department. We did not impose any fetters upon ourselves?—Then I proceed.—In justice to the Department and to the Agricultural Board, it is hoped that the members of the Commission will have due regard to these facts, which appear to have been wholly absent from the minds of many of the witnesses who have already given evidence. There can be no doubt, however, as to the nature of the arrangement which was made in 1903 between the Congested Districts Board on the one hand and the Department and the Agricultural Board on the other. Mr. Wyndham's minute is perfectly clear, and that it was clearly interpreted by the Department and the Agricultural Board is shown by the reply of the Vice-President as well as the minute of the Agricultural Board at their meeting on the 18th July, 1906, which is printed on page 279 of the Appendix to the First Report of this Commission.

20080. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you aware that there has been a pronouncement from the Board with reference to that pronouncement of the Agricultural Board?—Yes; it is printed in your Report.

20081. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Then your expression "no doubt" would seem to call for some modification, as you are not altogether in harmony with the views of the Congested Districts Board upon the point?—Certainly, I don't think the Board had any doubt, and personally I had not.

20082. Your Board had no doubt, but other parties had a doubt?—There could be no doubt in the mind of the Agricultural Board—I would mend in that way.

20083. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There was no doubt?—There was no doubt. For three seasons this arrangement had been in operation, and during that time the policy of the Department has been to develop their statutory relations with the County Committees of Agriculture. The County Council of each of the counties has annually raised its rate and carried on a number of schemes applicable to the whole administrative county. It was apparent, at an early stage, however, that, owing to the previous history of the congested districts, which had no long been accustomed to look to a central body for assistance, it would be necessary to supplement the work of the County Committees in the poorer districts. Accordingly the Agricultural Board provided additional funds, and the Department, through its inspectors, who are always in close touch with the work of the County Committees, have aided the poorer districts with schemes supplementary to those of the Committees. By this means districts, which would otherwise have been neglected, have received a certain amount of assistance. The funds at the disposal of the Department, however, for these supplementary schemes are far too limited to enable them to duplicate all the schemes of the County Committees, and it was therefore decided to confine the expenditure of such money as could be spared to that section of the work which was most appreciated, and which was likely to yield the most immediate return. No one will doubt that of all the schemes, that which made provision for sires, particularly bulls and boars, is what the people most appreciate and require, and it has accordingly been mainly in the introduction of these sires, as well as stallions, jacks, and rams, that the Department have supplemented the County Committees' schemes. During the first year of the new arrangement the withdrawal of the money from the agricultural schemes was not so severely felt in the congested districts, as many of the bulls and boars supplied by the Congested Districts Board still remained there. As these sires diminished, however, the Department have, so far as circumstances permitted, introduced new sires to take their place. Year by year the pressing needs of these districts have been increasingly brought home to the Department. The inadequacy of the funds at their disposal has been represented to the Agricultural Board from time to time, and, in the firm belief that more ample funds will be forthcoming for the development of agriculture in these districts in the manner to be described in the third part of this evidence, the Agricultural Board, at their last meeting, to mark their appreciation of the needs of the districts, voted an additional sum of £4,000 for the current year. It must be pointed out, however, that the application of this sum for one year can have but little beneficial

effect unless it is to be followed up by at least an equal grant in succeeding years.

20080. When was that additional £4,000 sanctioned?—In January—about a month ago.

20081. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do you know what sort of price you give for a bull?—I will deal with that when I come to the question.

20082. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Could you give us a return showing in the years subsequent to the transfer of this work from the Congested Districts Board the amount expended upon it in each of the congested counties?—I think it is in this memorandum.

20083. You began in 1904-5, and then you have 1905-6—that is two years!—The annual expenditure on county schemes by the committee in the seven counties is given in this memorandum.* In the first column you have the expenditure on all Ireland, and in the second column on county schemes by the Committee of the seven partly congested counties.

20084. It does not exactly say it is on congested areas?—It does not show expenditure in congested districts till 1904-5.

20085. The return I desire would be a return of the expenditure on agricultural schemes after the transfer of the work from the Board to you?—This is in the next column, which shows expenditure by the Department direct on supplemental schemes in the poorer parts of the congested counties. That is supplementary schemes. Then if you take the table below that,

I think you have what is required. It shows the expenditure on the congested areas of the seven counties for 1904-5.

20086. There it is divided, from the rates there is so much!—In 1904-5 it was £1,332, in 1905-6 it was £1,453, and in 1906-7 it was £1,500. Then from the Congested Districts Board we got £2,000 each year. It was not quite all spent the first year. Then it was added to from the Department in the last two years. In 1905-6, £180. In the current year it is £1,100. That is what is wanted to make up the County Committee's estimate. In the next column you will see the expenditure on the Department's own additional schemes £23,345 in 1904-5, and £23,415 in 1905-6. We now have a sum of £9,700 for the current year. It was originally £5,700 up to last month, when we represented to the Agricultural Board the great need there was for not waiting, but for getting on with the work in the congested districts. They said, "for one year we will increase the grant by £4,000."

20087. I ask the question because the Vice-President in his statement to the Agricultural Board after the arrangement with the Congested Districts Board said that in addition to the £1,000 a year from the Congested Districts Board it would cost the Department £5,000 a year?—Yes, but not necessarily at first. But we certainly thought it would rise to that. I am glad to say it is now a great deal more.

Feb. 18, 1907.

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Professor J.
R. Campbell

* See p. 232.

The Committee adjourned

FORTY-SECOND PUBLIC SITTING.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At Winchester House, St. James' Square, London, E.W.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Professor J. B. CAMPBELL further examined.

Feb. 18, 1907. 20083. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—At what point do you wish to resume?—At the paragraph at the bottom of page 43. I desire to amend what I have already said. I have been describing the points which I thought should be taken into careful consideration in comparing the work of the local authorities with that of the Congested Districts Board. I gave several points that I considered should be taken into careful consideration. I may point out that yesterday I was not aware of the amount of money that had been spent by the Parish Committees in the years preceding 1904. Now I have taken the figures out, and I find that in 1903-4 it was £5,355; in the following year, 1904-5, £5,873; in 1904-5, it was £9,635, and in the present year it is something over £11,000.

20084. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You are perfectly right in calling attention to the figures. The figures mentioned up in this way. The scheme began originally in Mayo. From Mayo it extended to Galway, from Galway to Donegal, from Donegal to Cork and Kerry, and from Cork and Kerry to Leitrim; and as the scheme extended from county to county the expenditure increased.—(Witness).—On page 43 I say one form of instruction which is very necessary in these districts and for which special provision should be made is that which would have a direct effect upon the standard of living. Anticipating the time when, in accordance with Mr. Wyndham's minute, additional funds would be forthcoming for agricultural development in backward districts, the Department have started, by way of experiment and demonstration, two schools for girls—one at Loughglin and the other at Westport. The primary aim of these schools is to provide for a class of instruction which cannot be conveniently given by standard teachers since it includes practical operations, such as gardening, milking, the rearing and feeding of poultry, calves, and pigs, and similar work, which is usually performed by the women of the house and which is included in the term *household-labour*. At Loughglin the girls attend during the day and return to their homes in the evening. The objects and nature of this instruction will best be understood from the tentative scheme under which the school was started.

20090. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—How long have the schools at Loughglin and Westport been working?—Loughglin three years and Westport two.

20091. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Loughglin is only for those girls who live in the neighbourhood?—In the neighbourhood. You see, the idea is to plant such a school as this in the centre of every densely populated district.

20092. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—And it is an experiment with a view to ascertain what would be the best lines to proceed on at such schools?—Exactly; and it would show exactly the sort of education the Department would like to provide. It is called the *Home-an-Tighe* class, because it teaches the work of the "Women of the House." I should like to read this, because it is important.

1. In certain districts, chiefly where there exists a large population of small farmers and cottagers, the Department are prepared to supplement hitherto instruction in agriculture, dairying, poultry-keeping, horticulture, bee-keeping, rural domestic economy and cottage industries by assisting in the formation of

rural centres where girls and young women may receive instruction and helpful guidance in their home work.

2. A rural centre, for the purposes of this scheme, may be the home of a religious community or of a private individual, provided there be at least one woman in charge to act as superintendent, who is prepared to devote herself to developing improvement in the home life of the neighbourhood. She must possess a practical acquaintance with the needs of small farmers and cottagers, be likely to secure their confidence, and to be welcomed among them.

3. The energies of the superintendent and her staff should be concentrated upon bettering the material condition of the people, upon adding to the comfort and happiness of the home, upon increasing the love and respect of the people for their home and for their country-side, and generally upon raising economic efficiency, and, in the case of rural holdings, upon counteracting the tendency to deplete farm work and life.

4. It must be no part of the work of the centre to train girls as domestic servants or to fit them for the factory or shop, nor will the Department give financial assistance where the girls do not return daily to their home.

5. It will be the duty of the superintendent and her colleagues to encourage girls and young women to meet at the centre and to interest themselves in the objects mentioned above. All should be welcomed, even those who only occasionally seek information in difficulties of home management.

20093. On that let me ask you one question. Have you got any standard of age, and are there any conditions or qualifications, or is it open to all at any age?—Any age.

20094. Provided they live at home?—Provided they are over the National Board age.

20095. That is the minimum?—That is the minimum.

20096. That is fourteen?

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You rather take them at the time that girls generally give up attending the National schools.

20097. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there a compulsory age for primary education in Ireland?—No; I do not think there is anything compulsory.

20098. Then what do you mean by the National school age?—It is the time they usually leave.

20099. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is it. There is no prohibition of a girl from attending as she advances in years?—No.

20100. You mean the limit of age at which girls generally leave the National school?—Yes. Then No. 6 is—Every phase of the activity of the centre will be practical. The cream of milk required in the dairy for practical butter and cheese-making, the poultry to be killed and dressed, the materials for the dishes to be cooked, the materials for new garments, and the clothes to be mended, washed and ironed, should be brought by the girls themselves—each taking home the product of her labour.

20101. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—They should be brought by the girls. Is that the rule?—That is what we aim at.

20102. So that you need never expend a pound?—Not on milk and such like.

20103. So that they may turn them out cheaply?—No. We want the school to be directed at the home life. We don't want to teach the making of fancy garments, and so on. Of course, we put it in this form, but it aims at a great deal more than we can possibly accomplish for some time. It is impossible to lay down hard-and-fast rules.

20104. What you really want to do is to teach them to do the best with the materials around them?—Yes; and we want, as far as possible, that the money spent should have some bearing upon agriculture.

20105. The duty of the superintendent and her colleagues should not end with the work of the centre itself. It should be supplemented by systematic visits to the homes wherever welcomed.

20106. When success attends the efforts of a superintendent and staff, the work should be stimulated by holding an annual show of the produce of the dairy, poultry runs, garden, and of articles of food and clothing prepared in the household.

20107. A rural centre, to be recognised for the purposes of this scheme, should aim at having the following accommodation:—

(I.) A farm of twenty-five statute acres, with suitable houses for cows, calves and pigs.

(II.) Houses and suitable runs for at least two breeds of fowl and for one breed of turkeys, one for geese, and one for ducks.

(III.) A fruit and vegetable garden at least one-half statute acre in extent.

(IV.) A dairy for butter and cheese making.

(V.) A wash-house and ironing-press.

(VI.) A kitchen, with at least two open hearths. A range is not required.

(VII.) A room for sewing, knitting and cottage industries.

20108. Does the Department provide that farm of twenty-five statute acres?—No; we want to get possession from someone who has a suitable farm. One in the hands of a community or in the hands of a private individual. For example, a community provides the farm at Loughgllyn. We don't provide that.

20109. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But you do equip it?—We do the equipping.

20110. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—This scheme, Professor Campbell, strikes me as being a very good one, because it brings home to the people directly the results of your work. It is not a proposition for living in other countries, but in their own. The points would be directly and universally adopted and applied. Of course, if it was connected with the ordinary educational system, which, I think, would be the better way, it would be universally applied at once, because the organisation exists for carrying it out. But how far could you apply it, say, within a reasonable number of years? Would it reach every person in Ireland in ten years?—No. Besides it would be quite unsuitable to any but a very populous district, and we do not contemplate schools of this kind except in congested districts, where there are large poor populations. I am afraid the number of places to which it would apply is limited. We would rather take spots where there were a very large number of people, and apply it there, suit the school to the circumstances.

20111. Is it the circumstances of Ireland that render it desirable to provide teaching in this way—are there no universal Government organisations in Ireland at all?—Do you mean for work of this kind?

20112. For any sort of work that you could utilise for this purpose. Of course, you have the County Councils?—Yes.

20113. And are there smaller areas of government?—There are rural districts—nothing less than that. We have no parish organisation.

20114. And what is the size of a rural area?—A county usually contains about five rural districts. It is about a fifth of the county.

20115. What is the object of the rural district—is it for Poor Law purposes?—Yes.

20116. And that is the smallest administrative area that there is?—The smallest administrative area that there is.

20117. But if you were to go outside the ordinary instructional authority you would have to do it yourselves in any case, wouldn't you?—If we were to go outside.

20118. The primary educational system could not be utilised?—Of course the primary educational system could be used for domestic economy, but you cannot use it for such work, for what I call farmyard work. The object is really to get at that, because you will see further on that it is the new holdings that we want to improve—you cannot make a success of them unless the farmer's wife is going to help in the making of butter and so on, and to make the most of it it would be necessary to give her instruction as well as to provide instruction for the farmer, and it is really to meet that case rather than to provide a course of instruction that can be given through the National Schools in one form or other that the schools are required.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I quite appreciate the object, and I think that scheme and the scheme of Parish Committees of the Congested Districts Board are the two most practical schemes I have heard of yet.

20119. Mr. KAVANAGH.—When you cover all the Loughgllyn district you will move on, because you will satisfy all the wants of a district in a short time?—No; I don't think so. I think there is constant work for the school. There are similar schools in Belgium and elsewhere at which girls are constantly learning. Loughgllyn is a modified phase of such schools, and it serves the purpose.

20120. Sir JOHN CROOK.—And is it not the case that, taking rural Ireland as it is now, and the habits and ideas of the people, it must take a generation or two to produce any permanent effect?—Yes, I believe that.

20121. I should like to ask one general question upon this matter. What are the hours at which they commence to receive instruction at these rural centres?—Well, there has been no hour fixed. We start upon the assumption that whatever body is to take it up, we must rely more upon their interest in the work and their enthusiasm. Then lay down any hard and fast rules, and, accordingly, at Loughgllyn we have laid down no regulations, but simply said, "Do the best you can." By and by we may establish some fixed rules, but in the early years we have not made any, because it is up-hill work.

20122. And you must adapt yourself according to circumstances?—Yes.

20123. The only reason I ask that is this, that with your knowledge of the habits and mode of life of the English and Scotch farmer and agricultural labourer, have you at all been struck by the fact that whereas in Great Britain the agricultural labourer and the ordinary farmer begins at or before daybreak, in Ireland few begin till 8 or 10 o'clock. Have you been struck by that?—Well, I cannot say that I have been struck by it, because I am not usually much out in the country, but it is generally reported that in many schools of this type the girls and the children have a long walk and you cannot lay down a hard and fast rule; but I agree with the general principle that they ought to begin earlier.

20124. Of course you cannot have a suburban system, but would you recognise the importance of gradually leading them to understand that in the pursuit of agriculture early rising is one of the most essential conditions?—Oh, I do, certainly.

20125. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—This class of scheme would encourage a good deal of home work?—Oh, yes, it would.

20126. Sir JOHN CROOK.—These schools are confined to females, are they not?—Oh, yes.

20127. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Now Loughgllyn is getting into order?—It is.

20128. Sir JOHN CROOK.—Do you find interesting interest?—The interest is very well maintained, but this we must not forget, that there is a strong tendency at this school and there will be at all schools of like kind to devote too much time to industries. I myself like to see schools of this kind carried on without industries altogether. They are maintained out of the fund for the improvement of agriculture. I should like to see that fund devoted as much as possible to that object. You will always find in these schools—and this is a case in point—but I do not urge it against the ladies of this establishment—that they devote too much time to that particular branch of the school.

20129. When do you mean when you say they are inclined to devote too much time?—The teachers in charge—the nuns of the convent.

Feb. 18, 1907.

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Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 18, 1903,
Professor J.
R. Campbell.

20127. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It is a great advantage to have these intelligent ladies taking an interest in the project?—Yes.

20128. Don't you appreciate at Loughlynna the very great advantage of having the devoted services of skilled ladies carrying on the work?—Oh, we appreciate that.

20129. Sir JOHN COLOM.—But I presume the natural tendency of the people would be to take up some industry as a means of bettering themselves if they left the land and went away?—Oh, there is no doubt about it. That is exactly the point I mentioned yesterday about boys. We have the same about the girls and of course it is a very natural feeling. We don't say it is a wrong one, but from the point of view of agricultural improvement of the people we ought to confine our work to that subject, and it is not right that our funds should be spent in another way, however desirable it may be. Now going on with the pigs, I was about to say that the school at Westport is intended for residential as well as non-residential pupils. It has been found, however, that this school is not in sufficiently close proximity to small holdings to enable it to be as effective as that at Loughlynna. The Department hope that the Commission will inspect these two schools in the course of their visits to the West.

20130. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What county is Loughlynna in?—It is in Roscommon, and the Westport School is in Mayo. It is intended that these schools should multiply when funds are forthcoming.

20131. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What is the management in Westport?—Westport is also in connection with a convent there. The school is under lay teachers, but supervised by the Reverend Mother of the Convent, and there we have the residential type of school. In the case of a school like Loughlynna the teacher visits the girls in their homes, and tries to see that they carry on there what they learned in school, but that does not take place in the case of a residential school like Westport.

20132. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you make any change? Oh, no; not in the Westport school.

20133. Sir JOHN COLOM.—And how is the selection made?—In Westport?

20134. Yes. Who makes the selection?—The Department makes the selection. The candidates apply to the Department for admission. As a matter of fact, the Westport pupil is being used to accommodate the pupils who cannot get into the Cork school. In that school there are always at least 200 pupils awaiting admission.

20135. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How many have you?—We allow only fifteen in residence, and as many day pupils as come.

20136. Sir JOHN COLOM.—For what period are they allowed to be in residence?—Six months.

20137. That is the same as the Cork School?—Cork is a quarter. There are four sessions in the year at Cork.

20138. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I see a good deal of money devoted to shows?—Yes.

20139. Now, in a general way do you find that shows encourage stock improvement?—Yes, we do.

20140. Are they worth the money as a rule?—Now, that is a question that I was sure would occur to you. It has occurred to me many and many a time. I do think myself that agricultural shows in Ireland are not so economically managed as they should be, and I do not think the money is always spent to the best advantage; but these things are extremely popular, and County Committees in making these grants to the shows are giving a part of the rates, and as the County Committee is willing to set aside some of the rates for the shows the Department do not think they would be justified in withholding their consent to it or withholding their usual contribution, but I am very much in favour of small local shows. Those shows do a great deal more good than the large shows, but the tendency in Ireland is to give money to large shows, and of course also they are a great advantage, but not to my mind equal to the little shows.

20141. Do you think that the principle itself is good?—Oh, yes. I think that the agricultural shows have done well, provided, of course, that they are real agricultural shows, and not merely a money-get-round.

20142. Of course, they have the prestige of long establishment for one thing?—They have.

20143. But are the opportunities equal where they exhibit?—No. I do not think so.

20144. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You would give more encouragement to the small farmer?—Yes.

20145. The fancy farmer generally has an advantage?—Yes.

20146. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Are the prizes unequally divided?—In some shows they are. In the early years the Department made regulations that prizes could only be given to certain classes of people, but the local authorities rather object to that, and we thought we ought not to impose those restrictions now, and withdraw them; in fact, we withdrew restrictions almost altogether. I am not at all sure it was wise. It might have caused some friction, but I would have stuck to it.

20147. Sir JOHN COLOM.—When you give money to any particular kind of show or subside a show from your Department do you attach to the allocation of that money any conditions—as it is not in your power to regulate what the prizes are, and for what class of holders, and all that?—No.

20148. It is simply given to the Show Committee to arrange the distribution of the money as they think fit, and you don't exercise any control?—We reserve the right to do so.

20149. Have you done it?—We did it the first year. We don't do it now. We practically leave it to the County Committee.

20150. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I don't think that is fully apprehended that it is done through the County Committee?—The local authority has power to put on any restrictions it may please.

20151. Sir JOHN COLOM.—These shows are not organised and got up by the County Committee. They are got up by an association of volunteers throughout the county taking an interest in the show?—Yes.

20152. And they are really the organising and controlling authority. Now, when they make an application for a subsidy to whom do they make the application?—To the County Committee.

20153. And do the County Committee send it on to you?—No, the County Committee allocate the money.

20154. Without any condition being imposed—any condition imposed regulating the money rates with the County Committee, and not with the Department?—It rests with the County Committee, but the Department have a veto on the whole thing.

20155. But have the Department laid down any rule that the subscriptions are to go in the direction of the small holder, to encourage the small holder, by the distribution of the prizes. Is there any general rule laid down by the Department for the guidance of the County Committee?—Oh, yes; the Show Society must furnish accounts, an audited balance-sheet giving details, and we require a list certified by the secretary of the Show Society setting forth the amount actually collected from local subscriptions. In allocating the funds available under the scheme the County Committee have to consider the various shows in the county, and the special requirements of the districts. The County Committee in allocating this grant to any particular show, and the Department in approving this grant will take into consideration the amount of local subscriptions collected and the value of the prizes awarded, and the cost of the distribution.

20156. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How can you say that the Department has no supervision over the prizes, for we have to submit our prize list from the local show every year to the Department, and unless it is sanctioned by the Department we cannot go on with it?—Yes, but the Department have never exercised their power of veto.

20157. No, because in the first instance we drew up a schedule really under your supervision, and in very few cases have we ever changed it, and consequently it is the first schedule that you approve of year after year. We have to submit it to you?—That is quite correct.

20158. Then you have supervision?—We have, but you are not conscious of any control being exercised over you.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Very strongly so.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are you speaking, Mr. Kavanagh, as a member of the Committee or as interested in the show?

Mr. KAVANAGH.—As both, and I take a great deal of interest in it. I am past secretary of it, and I am also a member of the Committee.

20159. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I daresay, Professor Campbell, that you take the view that you do not like to interfere in their work, and it would not be

wise if you did it—Yes; in the early stages we actually laid down the class of stock and ages, and all that sort of thing, but then we withdrew it, because it appeared to be rather undue interference.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—And every penny we get has to go in prizes. They won't let us deduct anything for expenses. The whole of the money goes from the County Committee and the Department goes in cash prizes.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is very good.

20162. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Now, let us get on to (Fifteen.)—In page 46 there are tables setting forth the sums allocated and sanctioned for county schemes in 1906-7 for the thirty-three counties, and also tables for the seven congested counties.*

20163. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is for the incoming year?—Yes, sanctioned. There comes a table showing the annual expenditure on county schemes in the case of the whole of Ireland, and by the committees of seven congested counties, and also the amount sanctioned by the Department direct or supplementary schemes in the seven congested counties.

20164. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Why seven? I thought there were eight?—I explained yesterday that I left out the County of Clare and the County of Cork.

20165. But only seven of the counties. You had better correct that?—Very well.

20166. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it be difficult to draw up a table showing the expenditure year by year in each of the congested counties under distinct headings?—Well, that can be done.

20168. I do not mean the early years, but only beginning with 1904?—Yes; I think that can be done. Then I will call your attention, I think, to the table II., because it is a very important one. You will see in the first column the sums of money actually spent by the County Committees. I called your attention yesterday to the great increase that had taken place in the expenditure.

20169. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do these sums include contributions from the local committees?—Oh, yes; it is the joint fund. In the congested counties the Department gives thirty shillings for every pound from the rates, and in the other counties twenty-five shillings for every pound. That is how it is made up.

20167. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—It appears that in the total expenditure of the years 1904-5, 1905-6, and 1906-7 you add the first and the last columns together?—No.

20168. I do not exactly understand it?—It is important that it should be clearly understood. The first two columns deal entirely with the disbursements of the local authorities.

20166. And does it deal with the local money?—It deals with the administration of the joint fund.

20170. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—These sums, I understand, are the expenditure of the objects stated in the first column of Table I. The first is only for the year 1906-7; then Table II. shows the expenditure each year since the Department began its work.

20171. Yes, but on the several items, I suppose, which are set out in the preceding table?—Yes; the estimate for 1906-7 is detailed in the first table. If you look at the last column of Table II. you see there the supplementary schemes in the poorer parts of the congested counties. I purposely put in the "poorer parts," because since the barriers are thrown down between congested and non-congested areas our inspectors are instructed not to have too stringent a regard to whether they are congested or not, but to see that they require special treatment.

20172. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—That means that the standard you followed was not that of the Act of Parliament, but that which really represented the actual conditions?—That is so.

20173. You found that in your experience?—I do not say it is very general, but we did find parts that are scheduled as congested which are not so badly off as some of the others.

20174. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is the local authority at all consulted as to the application of these supplementary schemes?—They are, and that is a very interesting point. What actually happens in fact is this. The Department does nothing till the County Committees have gone over the ground, and then the Department comes in and, so to speak, fills up the blanks. The County Committees of the western counties having made a selection of premium bull holders in the congested area, and having expended all their money, send us up the applications of the persons they are unable to supply. A similar

thing occurs with regard to horses in Mayo. They have asked that they themselves should select the horses, and we have asked them to send up one to make the selection.

20175. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—As a matter of detail, how do you deal with those animals—say a bull. Do you give a bull to a farmer, and has he to keep him?—We purchase the bull and sell him to the farmer under two systems. The general system adopted by the County Committees is that the Department sells the bull to the farmer at one-third of the original price, and then he pays the Department the remaining two-thirds within two years out of the premium which he receives from the County Committee, the premium being £25.

20176. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then he pays nothing for the bull?—He pays down one-third.

20176a. The bull is sold to the farmer by the Department at one-third of its price?—Yes, at one-third of its price.

20177. Then I understand that he would have a loan of that one-third?—No; the farmer repays the Department the other two-thirds.

20178. Then you sell the bull at two-thirds of the price to the farmer?—He has a loan of two-thirds of the purchase price, the price we put on it, and he repays the Department the two-thirds in two annual instalments.

20179. Which he gets?—Which he gets in the form of a premium from the County Committee, and he may get more than that.

20180. Is the bull then open for any farmer to send his cow up to?—The County Committee make regulations about the fees and the persons who are to make use of the bull, and generally it is a low fee that is fixed.

20181. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Fixed by the County Committee?—Generally fixed by the Department.

20182. So that he cannot charge what he likes?—The reason the Department insist on the shilling fee is to compete with the very poor class of local bull.

20183. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does not this practical difficulty suggest itself that the cow of the shilling man may belong to the free-shilling man?—We do not inquire too closely. That may happen.

20184. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—I want to ask you this question. Say that in the district there is a bull, and that that bull will not be able to serve all the cows in the district. Who makes the selection for the use of the bull?—Well, there is no selection made. It is a question of first come first served.

20185. Is it not a question of whose friend is the man with the bull?—If that happened the other ratepayers in the district, I suppose, would look after it.

20186. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It does not occur more than in other businesses?—It might occur, but the great safeguard is that the matter is in the hands of the local authority representing the body of ratepayers who would see to it that the thing was done right.

20187. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Now, the recognition of the man depends upon the number of cows served, and is it not one of the conditions of having a bull that so many cows of such and such holders should be served?—Yes.

20188. Very well. Who is it that guarantees that that is being fulfilled—is it the owner of the bull?—The owner of the bull makes a statutory declaration to the effect that it is so, and then it comes up for payment before the County Committee, and the local ratepayers would very soon hear if anything was going wrong. That is one of the great advantages of the Department's system that the ratepayers see to it if anything is done wrong.

20189. Has the owner of the bull the power of refusing cows?—Beyond a certain number he has.

20190. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Then you do take precautions that the bull is properly kept and fed?—Yes, we have got a good check, because the bull is eligible for a premium for a second year, a third year, and a fourth year. We try to keep them as long as we can, because those animals are very expensive. The point is this, that the animal is inspected, and the inspector, if the animal is not well kept, strikes him off, and the farmer loses his premium.

20191. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Are these surprise inspections or on long notice?—Not long notice at all, sometimes a week's notice, but not much more.

Feb. 19, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

20202. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Then as to the supply of bulls, where do you get them?—Well, we have the greatest possible difficulty in getting a supply.

20203. Have you to go far abroad?—Well, we have to go to Perth to-morrow.

20204. What breed do you get there?—Shorthorn Angus.

20205. Which breed does best in the poorer parts of Ireland?—Well, in the very poor parts the Galloway bull does very well, although there is a strong opposition on the part of the traders.

20206. They do not fatten so much?—They do not fatten, and there is no doubt that English breeders have not been able to distinguish between a Galloway and an Aberdeen cross, and they have bought Galloway crosses for Aberdeen crosses, and have been very much disappointed. I think that notwithstanding the objection of the cattle-breeders, it would be wrong to introduce any other sort of bull into parts of Connemara.

20207. What was the breed before?—The breed before, so far as I have been able to see it in Connemara, was something like what Highland cattle if you kept them long enough in the country would come to.

20208. They were woolly and shaggy like that?—I have only seen a few specimens in Connemara.

20209. Could they be utilized in any way for crossing?—The originals?

20210. Yes?—Oh, they are gone. It is only just now and again you see a specimen.

20211. Of course Ireland has got some indigenous breed of cattle. There are the Kerry cows?—Yes.

20212. Are they largely used?—Very largely used in Kerry, and the Congested District Board, I think, tried them in Connemara, but they were not quite a success.

20213. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But they are very small?—Very small, but shrewd little animals.

20214. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What are the qualities you would like to see?—Well, at the present time it is beef and milk. There is no doubt about that.

20215. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Have you a staff of regular permanent officials whose sole business is the selection of bulls?—The selection of bulls is made by our chief inspector.

20216. A permanent official?—A permanent official.

20217. Bulls for the whole operations of the Department are bought by one particular man?—Yes, but the number of bulls we buy is very few. It is only for persons in congested districts and very poor parts who write or say, "We really do not know where to get bulls," or "We do not want to go to Perth," and "Could you manage to buy for me?" and, accordingly we buy for them poor people; but the great bulk of the bulls, hundreds of them, are bought by the farmers themselves. For example, to-morrow at Perth there will be a strong muster of Irish farmers buying bulls for County Leitrim.

20218. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The farmers themselves go?—But that is for the better parts of Ireland; very few from the West. We have a great difficulty in getting people in the West even to come up to Dublin.

20219. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does a strong farmer write to you asking you to buy a bull?—He meets our inspector and asks him.

20220. About what price would you get a bull for such a farmer for?—Well, the price of bulls has unfortunately gone up very much. Here are the prices at Perth.

20221. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Are you quoting from the memorandum?—Yes.

20222. What page?—Page 59. That will give you an idea of the price of bulls. It is to be hoped that they will be cheaper to-morrow.

20223. That only gives shorthorns?—Only shorthorns. 419 in 1898. They have jumped up year by year, and last year they fetched £84.

20224. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I suppose your operations would have this effect?—Our operations would have some effect, but it is due to the Argentine demand. The Argentine is prepared to give striking for bulls. They were prepared last year to give up to £1,000 for bull calves.

20225. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Are these average prices of bulls bought by farmers?—No; the average price of bulls sold at Perth sale. This shows you how the price has gone up. Now, the price which a farmer in the West expects to get a bull at is something

under £40, say £35 for a Shorthorn, and Galloways about £24.

20226. We were at page 45 on this Table showing the cost of the supplementary schemes?—You will see that after 1903-4, when the Department began to operate in the congested districts, that the sum of money which they spent the first year was £3,268, exclusive of their share of what was spent on county schemes by the County Committees. This is very confusing and very complicated. I was examined yesterday very closely as to the arrangements which took place between the Department and the Congested Districts Board in 1903. Before that the Department did not touch the congested parts at all. Then, in 1904-05, they got £2,000 from the Congested Districts Board to spend on schemes in congested areas.

20227. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have they been getting that annually since?—Annually since.

20228. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Which Table are you referring to?—Table II. If you go to Table III, you will see it is set out in still greater detail.* You notice that in 1904-5 the £3,000 was scarcely required, whereas now it is all required, and the Department had to supplement it last year (1905) by £180, and this year by £1,500. That is over and above the special schemes which the Department pays for. The sum devoted to that purpose is set forth in the last column. It is an extremely complicated arrangement.

20229. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I follow plainly enough, the only thing being the question of duplicated administration?—Yes.

20230. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Am I right in interpreting Table III in this way?—That in 1905-6 out of £14,700, only £1,900 was defrayed by rate?—That is right. That is an estimate only. But if you took the previous year, you would be right in saying that out of £14,147 only £1,455 was defrayed by rates.

20231. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That compares very favourably with the construction of piers and roads, and that sort of thing, towards which the localities do not contribute anything?—Of course, it is a fundamental principle of the Department, and is provided by statute, that we must not spend money unless there is a local contribution. Then, on page 47, there are Tables (IV. and V.)* which show the details of the supplementary work. The County Committee schemes are standard schemes, and all in print, whereas these special schemes are supplementary, and not so regular in their provisions.

20232. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I do not understand the use of the word "special" here. Surely, the county schemes embrace the live stock. What is the special work in connection with live stock done by the Department, irrespective of the action of the County Committee? How do you define "special" work?—Perhaps "supplementary" is a better word.

20233. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Since 1904, the Department, through the County Committees, has varied live stock schemes over the congested area and the non-congested area uniformly through the county, so far as administration is concerned. In addition to that administration, immediately through the County Committee, the Department also, from the central office in Dublin, works the supplementary scheme of live stock in the congested area in each of these counties?—That is so.

20234. It is only to that extent that there is any duplication?—That is so; in other words, there are portions of these counties which are so very backward that it is difficult for the people to take advantage of schemes under local authorities, and they have to be specially treated.

20235. They want differential treatment, and that they could not have to a sufficient extent from the County Committee?—Not at present, because they have so long been accustomed to look to a central body that they certainly have not yet got into the habit of referring to a local body; if they want assistance they write direct to the Department.

20236. And their wants are much greater than those of the rest of the county?—Much greater.

20237. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Has this supplementary work been carried on in congested districts, or does it apply to districts not congested, or partly one and partly the other?—It applies only to poor districts. I do not want to use the word "congested," because we may sometimes go a little outside the area that is technically congested.

* See p. 102.

† See p. 220.

20228. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—With your supplementary schemes?—With our supplementary schemes we may go outside and find a poor district, but these special schemes never apply to the better-off parts of Ireland.

20229. Sir JOHN COLVILLE.—But still the poorer parts, where you do apply these schemes, are under the County Committee?—Yes, under the County Committee.

20230. In those parts does the Department step in with supplementary expenditure when the county, for some cause or another, has failed to do its duty?—I would not say failed to do its duty.

20231. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It has not the means of doing what is necessary in the county?—It may have spent all its money; that is one reason. A second reason is that the people want more looking after; you must go to them and explain these schemes; you cannot leave it to the very small farmers in those districts to watch the newspapers and make applications as a strong farmer would do. That is the reason why we call them "special" and "supplementary." It is very much the work which the Congested Districts Board did formerly, but it is supplementary now to the schemes of the local authorities.

20232. Sir JOHN COLVILLE.—Who puts you in motion in undertaking supplementary work and supplementary expenditure?—We put ourselves in motion; we keep a staff for the purpose.

20233. You go to a district that is embraced in the County Committee system, and is within the purview of the whole machinery of your Department, and you say, "Here is a district which has not enough done for it," and you step in supplementarily and find direct means. Is that it?—That is exactly the position.

20234. Is not that rather putting a premium on their not doing their work?—No, I do not think it is. The County Committee spend all the funds that they have got, and the County Committee raise a uniform rate, and they have to see that that rate which they raise is uniformly spent over the county, and that would give as much to the poorer parts than to the wealthier parts—in fact, less.

20235. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do I understand that as long as the County Committee has funds expended you do not spend your funds on these supplemental works? Do you wait until the county authority has no more money, and then, because it has no money, take these things up, or do you get yourselves in such close connexion with the county that when you see they are not able to do the necessary work you step in and do it?—I do not think we would wait so long, because that would be too late. The County Committee allocate its funds, and if we waited until those funds were all taken up the season would be too far gone. The idea underlying it is this—that by and by these very backward and poor districts will be brought up to the level of the rest of the county, and will be able to take full advantage of what the County Committee have to offer.

20236. Let us put it the other way; is it your experience that exceptional action on your part in the poorer districts does, as a matter of fact, induce the county authority to withhold their full share?—Oh, no, not in the least.

20237. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is there a tendency on the part of the County Committee to give to the different districts petty warch in proportion to the rate which is raised?—Yes.

20238. The rate raised in the poorer districts makes a smaller aggregate rate than in the richer districts?—Yes.

20239. That is one reason why you have supplemental treatment?—Yes.

20240. Then originally the needs of the poorer districts would be greater than the needs of the better districts?—Yes.

20241. Would you not say that in the poorer districts there would be required three or four times as much help as is required in the richer districts?—Yes.

20242. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do I understand rightly that they are limited to one penny in the £1?—I think under the Act twopence could be raised, but the Department have not asked them to raise more than one penny, and do not contemplate doing so.

20243. There is no danger of the county being rendered bankrupt by this rate?—Oh, no.

20244. Take, for instance, the average holder in Inland—what is his valuation?—In the West, £25, perhaps.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Sixpence a year would not ruin him.

20245. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Say £5 a holding?—Yes.

20246. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Sixpence would not ruin him?—No.

20247. Sir JOHN COLVILLE.—Then the Table IV. is the actual expenditure on supplementary work in 1905-06, £24,500, and the estimate for the next year is just double that?—That is so.

20248. Has the poverty increased, or how do you justify the increase in the expenditure of Imperial money?—No. I am afraid you were not here yesterday when I went into this question. The point is this—that the Congested Districts Board spent about £11,000 in those districts on this work. They gave the Department £2,000 a year to do it. The £2,000 was totally inadequate for the needs of the district. We were relying on the Memorandum which was referred to yesterday. We had hoped the time would come when more funds would be forthcoming for the purpose, because the Department's endowment is intended for the non-congested districts, not for the Congested Districts, and while the Agricultural Board protested against taking money from the non-congested and giving it to the congested, they have this year, in order to mark their appreciation of the special needs of the locality, said that for another year they will increase it to this amount, £3,700.

20249. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Was it not estimated, as we saw yesterday, that you would need from the start to back the £2,000 from the Congested Districts Board with £5,000 of your own in addition to the local rate?—Yes.

20250. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That was what Sir HORACE PLUNKET put before the Agricultural Board, and all accepted his representation that an additional sum of £5,000 would be required. You did not expect that at first, you know?—No.

20251. Now you are expending more than that. Probably it could not be helped, but I suppose it would have been a great advantage had you been able, in that first year, to expend something near the amount which previously had been spent by the Congested Districts Board?—Oh, yes, it was disastrous checking the work; the machinery was in motion, and that machinery has been to a great extent put out of action, and with respect to the work of the Congested Districts Board in agricultural development in all these years. I do not regard so much the actual results, but the initial effort made to get the machinery in motion. This was in itself a very heavy piece of work, and we will have to set that machinery in motion again. I now have to refer to the different schemes in the Congested Districts. I think the first is agricultural instruction. It is only this year that all the County Committees with the exception of Donegal have succeeded in securing the services of a trained agricultural instructor. The supplementary work of the Department has consisted in the placing of one instructor in Donegal, one in Westport, one in Galway, and more recently one in Tralee, but the time of these officers has been so fully occupied in pushing on the supplementary schemes of the Department, particularly in the placing out of sires, that they could spare but little time for agricultural instruction. So far as was practicable, however, they have given advice to farmers in the districts in which they are located, and have carried out a number of demonstrations on the manuring and growing of crops. The additional funds voted at the last meeting of the Agricultural Board have enabled the Department to employ nine additional instructors, who now are at work on supplementary activities of instruction. Of these one is in Donegal, three in Mayo, three in Galway, and two in Kerry. If funds permit others will be employed as circumstances render it necessary.

20252. Sir JOHN COLVILLE.—Why, in this County Kerry, did you select Tralee? When Tralee is the centre of a wealthy district, while other parts of the county round Dingle, Cahoreevra, and other places are comparatively poor and backward, can you tell me why the rich part of the county was chosen?—Yes, he really has his headquarters there, because it is a convenient railway centre, and, of course, there being only one man, he has to go round and see a very large number of farmers who may be wanting bulls, rams,

Vol. 10, 1907.

Professor J. R. Campbell.

Feb. 19, 1907.
 Professor J.
 R. Campbell.

or horse, as the case may be—and Tralee is found a very convenient centre. But if I had sufficient of them I certainly would not place them at Tralee if I had my own way; I would only make Tralee the headquarters for the principal men.

20253. In the County Kerry the peninsulas are the most backward; the neighbourhood of Tralee is very well-to-do!—It is really only at present the centre because it is a good railway junction.

20254. It is the centre for an official whose duty is best performed by being somewhere where he can have most convenient railway access to a large area?—Yes, quite so. Now, as to live stock schemes. To supplement the work of the County Committees the Department in the poorer and more backward districts of those counties where horse-breeding is carried on, located stallions as shown in my memorandum* for services of small farmers' mares at a fee of 5s. and under. That is to supplement the nomination system carried out by the present Committee.

20255. And the cost of that comes into the table of special work?—Yes. You see, there were nineteen stalls altogether.

20256. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you continuing hackneys?—If you look at the note at the foot of the table, it says that with the exception of half-breds and the thoroughbreds, these animals were taken over from the Congested Districts Board in 1904. We have never bought any since, though we have sold some of those we got from the Congested Districts Board. We kept only the hackneys that we took over, and, as you see, there are only four hackneys altogether.

20257. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I do not know whether you would adopt the view we have heard expressed up in Buncrana in answer to a question addressed by myself, a man said they had ruined the breed?—Yes, and he also said the Department had done it. I remember that statement very well.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I condone, personally, if you get a good offer for the other hackneys, I think you might sell them, too.

20258. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What is the Norwegian sire?—It is a pony sire. Two of them were bought by the Congested Districts Board, but they were not acceptable to the people. There is no doubt the one they want in the West is a good strong half-bred sire of the general type of the animal in Ireland. There has been a great deal written about the breed of Connemara; they are merely the horse originally all over Ireland kept small by the conditions under which they live, and any animal brought there ought to be of the same blood as the Connemara. A good half-bred appears to me to be the best.

20259. You do register half-breds now, do you not?—Yes, and we have bought two half-breds just recently for the congested districts.

20260. From other parts of Ireland?—Yes.

20261. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is breeding for sale purposes the principal object?—In the West they sell the foals in autumn.

20262. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Two-year-olds?—No, just a foals.

20263. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Where do they take them in at that age?—Well, I am speaking of Connemara. I may be wrong to some extent with regard to Donegal and Kerry. I was at Clifton Fair to see them on one occasion—business of another kind took me there—and I saw from 600 to 700 foals brought in. They were all sold at 54, 55, and 56. They were taken off in wagons, and they would go all over Ireland and be sold at fair. One dealer told me he actually sold some to England for pit ponies.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I have seen them walking along the roads in great squads after these fairs.

20264. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is their ultimate market?—I have had some difficulty in tracing them beyond that.

20265. Do they begin to work them at that age?—Oh, no.

20266. And then, if a man buys a horse and keeps him for the second year himself, it means that he is doing nothing?—You mean a foal?

20267. Yes?—That is rarely done in the West.

20268. But I mean elsewhere?—Oh, yes, they buy them elsewhere.

20269. Why do they sell them at one year—is it the difficulty of wintering them?—I think that is the chief difficulty, and also the want of ready money.

20270. What could they sell them at, if they kept them comfortably for the next year—£20?—Oh, no—not very much more than foal price—£2 or £3 more.

20270A. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is really the least profitable year of their whole life?—Yes, and really they could not afford to give them hay, let alone the other food that a young foal ought to get. They are sold off the mother.

20271. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is a very profitable thing to sell for £7 the first year?—Yes, if they get the service cheap, it is not so bad.

20272. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You do not like the hackney much?—I am not a great horse admirer—everyone seems to know so much more about horses than I do.

20273. Are you aware that in the congested districts the hackney was rather patronised by the Land Commission than by the Congested Districts Board?—I am not aware that the Land Commission had anything to do with the Congested Districts Board; the Congested Districts Board cannot get out of the responsibility.

20274. The control was in the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission rather than in the Board?—Well, of course, that is possible.

Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Was not the person who had to deal with the horse-breeding connected both with the Congested Districts Board and also of the Land Commission?

20275. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There was a Land Commissioner put on the Board for that purpose. The work was under the general management of the Board?—In order that it might be on record in case it was asked for, I have set forth the names of the persons with whom the stallions were located. I saw in the other evidence that there were several misstatements with regard to where they were, and I thought it better to put that on record.

20276. Your statement shows where they have been?—Yes. I may say that I am not quite certain that the addresses are in every case quite accurate, but they are as nearly so as possible; they are taken from our books. Then, on the question of the "Improvement of Asses," some of the County Committees undertake schemes for the improvement of those animals which are of such immense service to small occupiers. The demand for Spanish jacks is, however, insatiable, and the Department have had to undertake very considerable expenditure in order to meet the wants of the people in the poorer districts. These sires are somewhat costly and difficult to procure. In all forty-one were placed out in 1906 for service at a fee of one shilling. Twelve more have been imported recently and will be placed out on similar terms in 1907. A few half-bred jacks, reared in Ireland, have been placed, but they have not been acceptable to the people.

20277. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do they become smaller?—They become smaller—yes. The Department are attempting to breed a better class of half-bred jack, which it is hoped may in future serve the purpose and render it unnecessary to import from Spain.

20278. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Here the County Committee have refused to do the work?—They have not refused.

20279. At all events, some of them have undertaken schemes for the improvement of asses?—That is so.

20280. Is that not rather an indication of public feeling—does it not tend to show that, in the opinion of the country, it is not necessary?—No, I do not think that, but they find that the small funds they have at their disposal are required for things that are more important in their opinion, such as cattle.

20281. That being so—the improvement of asses being a thing that they do not attach as much importance to—the County Committees do not do anything in that direction, and the Department spends money under great difficulties?—Under great difficulties?

20282. Yes—you spoke about the difficulties?—Oh, yes.

20283. The Department steps in to spend money on something that the County Committees, the proper bodies, do not think it necessary to spend money upon?—Oh, they do think it necessary, but they have not the funds. Their funds are very, very limited, as you can see by reference to the table which I gave you yesterday.

20284. Can you point out any part of Wales or Scotland, where conditions are similar for small occupiers, where this extraordinary number of asses are

and I do you know any other country where that is so?—In Spain, certainly. There are not so many in any part of Great Britain as are used in certain parts of Ireland.

20295. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not the dunlop a very useful animal for drawing turf out of a bog, and for bringing children to school?—Yes; and going to church or going to market.

20296. Sir JOHN COOKE.—If you travel in any part of the West of Ireland, you sometimes see two or three men in a dunlop-cart, proceeding at the rate of one or two or three miles an hour, comfortably smoking their pipes. Does not that greatly contribute to waste of time?—Yes, but unfortunately the holdings they have will not support a horse.

20297. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the chief merit of the dunlop?—Well, in Ireland it grazes by the roadside, and costs little.

20298. It costs very little to support it?—Very little. I am sorry to say the ass is very badly treated in Ireland, badly fed.

20299. What is its power for burden purposes?—It can carry a man.

20300. And it can draw a cart?—Yes, a very big cart. You would be surprised to see how big a cart it can draw—very slowly, of course. It will take a wonderful load.

20301. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It can pull a weight of quarter of a ton?—Oh, more than that.

20302. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The ass is easily kept, is he not?—Very easily kept.

20303. Is he subject to distemper?—No.

20304. And he is long-lived?—Yes. Then, I have set out the names of the persons with whom these asses have been located, in case there should be any questions upon it. Now, I have a note as to cattle-breeding. As already stated, the provision of good sires, particularly bulls, has proved the form of assistance most in demand in these counties, especially among the smaller farmers who are not able to pay cash for the animals or to go to sales or shows to purchase them. In 1904, when the Congested Districts Board withdrew their assistance, the western districts were fairly well stocked with bulls. These bulls were not handed over to the Department, as would appear from Mr. Wyndham's minute, but remained the property of the Board or of the farmer.

20305. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There were agreements with the farmers?—Yes; it was more convenient. At the time the transfer took place, the farmers in the non-congested counties were only beginning to properly understand the system to be followed in order to get premiums for bulls through County Committees, and it took residents in the congested areas, a still longer time to adopt the new system. One of the difficulties in supplying bulls in recent years has been that the simultaneous action of the thirty-three County Committees enormously increased the demand for high-class bulls. The County Committees require annually over 900 bulls for their schemes of cattle improvement.

20306. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean to purchase 900 a year, or to maintain them at 900?—We have over 900 this year.

20307. You have to purchase enough to maintain that number?—Yes, and as there is not nearly a sufficient number bred in Ireland to meet this demand, and as some of the more up-to-date farmers in other parts of the country are always prompt to avail themselves of the provisions of the schemes in the matter of bulls, there has always been a difficulty in assuring a fair share of the available supply of animals for applicants from the western counties. In order to overcome this difficulty the Department usually buy a draft of bulls at the early sales and hold them over on their own premises until the applicants from these districts come forward. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Congested Districts Board conferred a great boon on the residents of Connought as well as on the Department by transferring to the latter body the option to purchase the Goodbody farm at Athcerry, which the Congested Districts Board had acquired, as by the establishment of an agricultural station on this farm it has been made possible for the Department to bring the number of premium bulls in the West up to its present level. The policy of the Department has been to allow the County Committee schemes to take effect over the whole of the county, congested as well as non-congested, and after the County Committees have made their selections of the persons to keep premium bulls, the Department review

what localities appear to be inadequately supplied, and then endeavour to supply the deficiency with the reserve bulls from their stations. This system prevents the overlapping, competition, and confusion which would ensue if two bodies were at work on the same scheme. The only three drawbacks to the cattle-breeding scheme are the want of funds, the dearth of good bulls, and the increase in the price of bulls. The latter has been caused not so much by the united action of the thirty-three County Committees, though this has contributed to it, but to the enhanced value of breeding sires during the last few years. To illustrate this point, I give in my Memorandum* some figures showing the average prices of shorthorn bulls sold at Perth (the principal source from which Irish farmers draw their supplies outside Ireland) during the years 1897 to 1906.

20308. I see the rest of that part has already been given in previous parts of the evidence?—Yes. Then, if you will turn to the next page, you will see I say that under the County Committee's scheme, as well as under the Department's supplementary scheme, the farmers themselves select the breed of bull. An effort has been made to get the farmers to attend at the Department's agricultural stations and make their own selection, but in the majority of cases they seem reluctant to do so. It will be seen from the following tables that each season has seen a very marked increase in the number of bulls placed. If the increase be maintained in the current year, the number for service should amount to 130 as against 74 in 1905 and 33 in 1906, that is, supplementary bulls. Including those located under the County Schemes the total for the seven counties will be about 350, but this must to some extent depend upon the supply of bulls and the price at which they can be obtained. The bulls located by the Department are as far as possible within or bordering on the congested districts, but since the barriers between the two areas have now been abolished so far as the Department's work is concerned, the Inspectors have not been asked to confine the supplementary bulls strictly to the scheduled areas, but to see that they are placed in those districts which most require them, and in districts which are in fact, if not in law, congested. For the most part the animals placed under the supplementary scheme are given out on the same terms as those of the County Committees (that is what I have explained about paying one-third and two-thirds of the premium), but in the case of Galloway or Kerry bulls, whose price has not been so much affected by the recent advance in prices, the terms are those formerly given by the Congested Districts Board. Then follows a table showing county by county the total number located in each county, the total number in non-congested districts provided for out of the joint fund, the number in congested districts provided for out of the joint fund, and the number in congested districts as to which extra premiums are provided by the Department, both on the ordinary terms and on special terms.

20309. Sir JOHN COOKE.—With regard to this matter of providing bulls for improving the breed of cattle, would you not consider it reasonable that steps should be taken to prevent bulls being at large that are quite unfit to propagate the species, in every sense of the word?—My answer to that is, that if these animals could be castrated there would a great increase in the rate of improvement of the live stock of the country.

20310. Is it not more emphasised in those congested districts where bulls are at large on the mountains, where, on the one hand, the county is expending money in order to improve the breed by bringing in bulls, and where, on the other hand, you have anybody keeping any sort of a rag of an animal at large, and destroying all the efforts of the County Committee? Do you or do you not attach importance to steps being taken in the congested districts, in the direction of some drastic action for the benefit of the ignorant people themselves, to prevent this sort of thing continuing?—I do.

20311. You attach very great importance to it?—Very great importance.

20312. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Perhaps you could tell me whether any of these animals have been located during the past couple of years in that poor district of Glencolmanville or Kiltart?—There are this year, but not hitherto.

20313. It is rather a poor district, is it not?—It is. A private individual has been placing bulls in the district in recent years.

Feb 15, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 15, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

20302. Mr. KAVANAGH.—With regard to the difficulty of getting bulls, I suppose now that you give premiums to four-year-old bulls that will lessen the yearly demand for them?—Yes, to some extent, but they are reluctant to keep them as four-year-olds.

20303. The first two or three years you only gave premiums to yearling bulls; then the bull had to go, and they had to get another. Surely now that you give a premium to four-year-old bulls that will lessen the demand?—Yes, but not to the extent that you would expect. The only point I want to make is that the letting in of three-year-olds has considerably reduced the pressure, but the four-year-old has not done so much.

20304. The four-year-old gets too heavy?—That is so.

20305. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you had any of these animals in the Rosine districts during the past few years?—There have been two at Burtport, but the fact is that until this year the number that we have placed has been comparatively small.

20306. And in your opinion very insufficient?—Wholly insufficient.

20307. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—As a matter of fact, the steps taken have not had much effect in reducing the number of these wretched little bulls, and they run about the hills as before?—Take the case of Connemara, which I know rather better than Donegal. I have seen the produce of the cross from the Galloway bulls introduced by the Congested Districts Board, very fair animals indeed, running about on the hills. They are a distinct improvement on the old native bull that had been there before, and I think that small farmers do undoubtedly sell off the progeny of the good ones to make money. That is one of the great difficulties in getting improvement—that they are short of money, and they sell the best animals. Still, you cannot be sending all these good bulls round without having a good effect, and here and there you will find farmers who keep a cross-bred bull, and in many cases the cross animals are a great improvement on the original breed.

20308. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You would contemplate keeping up the supply of bulls in these districts?—For a certain time.

20309. Because there is that continual temptation to sell?—Yes, that is so.

20310. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Perhaps you would go on now to the next point?—I pass over several of these pages, and come to page 57, where I deal with the question of the improvement in the breeding of swine. As might be expected the scheme for the improvement of the breeding of swine is one which has appealed specially to the western districts, and one on which the Department have expended a considerable share of such money as they had to dispose of. The simultaneous action of the thirty-three counties has, however, seriously interfered with the even distribution of the available animals, but the establishment of agricultural stations at Achery and elsewhere has made it possible for the Department to reserve for Connemara more than its due share of the available stock.

20311. I do not quite understand the point about the simultaneous action of the thirty-three counties having interfered with the even distribution of the available animals. What do you mean by that?—All the thirty-three County Committees wanted premium boars at the same time. It applies to the bulls in the same way. Up-to-date counties like the County Down will be ready, having their organisation perfected, to buy up every animal before some of the backward counties would come forward. To obviate that we have had to get these stations, and buy animals and keep them there in order that the country might have a fair distribution. County Committees first select their centres and the Department then fill in the black districts which are left. The boars are sold by the County Committees to the applicants at cost price plus carriage. The system adopted is that the applicant pays £2 down, and the balance is deducted from the premium at the end of the season. In the case of those supplied by the Department, the same procedure is adopted. Probably no scheme has been attended with better results than this one, mainly, of course, because of the fact that the influence of the boar is felt much more quickly owing to these animals being more prolific and coming to maturity sooner

than cattle. Then follows a table showing the provision made for the location in 1906 of boars throughout the seven counties containing Congested Districts; and, again, a table showing the number of premium boars located under county schemes in the seven counties during each of the years 1901 to 1906—showing, as you see, a very steady increase. This year there has been a steady increase in all the schemes throughout Ireland, and the same applies to the work of the western counties.

20312. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What breed is most in demand?—The breed most in demand in the West is the large York; in the North of Ireland the new black pig is the breed in demand.

20313. Where does it come from?—From the South of England, it is beginning to be rather popular, but in the West of Ireland the large York is still popular.

20314. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How is the swine fever going on?—That does not come under my purview; it is under the Veterinary Branch of the Department.

20315. Do you not know it by the effect on your own boars?—Well, we try and keep them out of the area of swine fever.

20316. That is just what I want to know—have you succeeded?—We have never had any trouble, except, of course, that there is a difficulty sometimes in moving boars; it is a little difficult, but not serious. It is a serious difficulty in the case of any farmer wishing to import from England, if by chance he wanted to buy a boar from a district where the disease is prevalent.

20317. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you follow the same system with boars as with bulls?—Exactly the same, except that we give £5 premium the first year, and £3 the second year. The boar is supplied at £2, and then the balance of the price of the boar is deducted from the premium. In effect it is the same as with the bulls, but the procedure is a little different, owing to the fact that the men who keep these boars are poor people and cannot even be expected to pay down the price of a good boar; at least it is a very serious consideration to them.

20318. You give the boar free?—In effect.

20319. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it not one of the most serious drawbacks to the population in the poorest parts of the country that they have no proper feeding, especially when the potatoes fail, for pigs?—Yes.

20320. And that in the years when the potatoes fail, the result is inevitably to diminish the income of the farmers?—Undoubtedly, the pig always follows the plough.

20321. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And does the improvement of pig-breeding afford some scope for development?—Yes, it does, but pig-breeding is well forward in Ireland. I think I am right in saying that in Ireland our breed of pigs is as good as anywhere.

20322. You export pigs, I believe?—Yes, and first-class pigs. And in Ireland there is an exceedingly good bacon trade.

20323. Do the bacon-curers buy direct from these people for the making of bacon?—Yes; if you go down to any of the fairs in the West and wait till the fair is over, you will see enormous numbers being taken to wagons and sent down to Limerick.

20324. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do they fatten for bacon?—At home. They are all fatted.

20325. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—At what age are they killed?—The inspector tells me at from nine to ten months, and they sell at £3 10s. to £4.

20326. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—For instance, over the line from Mayo to Waterford and Limerick the pig trade is one of the most important trades of the country?—Yes, that is so.

20327. Sir JOHN COMMER.—Have you observed, or have you any reason to believe it to be the case, with regard to pig-breeding, that when prices are high then the people devote great attention to pig-breeding, and that when the prices fall they do not exert themselves at all? I am speaking now of the poorer districts. Is it the case that the breeding is extremely intermittent, varying with the prices—a sort of hand to mouth business—and that this is very detrimental to the welfare of the small holders of the West?—Yes, but it is very natural that if prices fall off they should cease to breed pigs, and as prices rise they give greater

attention to it. I think that is very natural, and is what you are bound to get in any country.

20338. You do not think it is peculiar to the West of Ireland?—No, I do not think so; I think there is every cause for it.

20339. High prices in due course follow because of the scarcity, and the scarcity is due to the fact that there has not been persistent effort to keep the pigs going?—It is not altogether due to the scarcity in Ireland. It may be due to the scarcity elsewhere, in Great Britain for example.

20340. Have you ever gone into the question statistically of the variation in the price of pigs in Ireland as to whether it follows the shortness of the potato crop, or the lowness of prices in England. How the question ever been really examined by the Department so as to get with some accuracy what is the real cause?—I personally have not done so, but doubtless the Department has. It would be a very simple matter to give a few curves showing that.

20341. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—These are contributory causes, and do not rest, generally, for a long spell of years. If you had a scarcity in the supply of potatoes, and the lowness of price for a series of years, the number of pigs would materially go down?—Yes.

20342. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—But my point is this—whether the Department has ascertained that as a fact, or whether the variation is due to other causes?—I am not prepared to answer that. I should say it is largely owing to the price of bacon, and that is very largely caused by the imports from abroad.

20343. At all events, may I ask you this? Is there any effort made by the Department to keep the people alive to the fact—especially the smaller holders in the West and South of Ireland—that it is of importance that the breeding of pigs should be constant, and that in their own interest it should not vary; that their efforts should be persisted in and continued. Is there any effort on the part of your Department to bring that under the notice of the County Committees, and to get it impressed upon the people—the small holders especially?—I would not be prepared to bring that before the notice of the people as all, because it is to them a matter of price. If they were tilling their land, then by all means they ought to go on breeding even in times when the prices are low; but when, as at the present time, they are buying foreign materials for feeding purposes, I do not think that the Department would be justified in encouraging them to go on producing a stated number of pigs. If they tilled their land, then I should certainly say, "Go on using your by-products of your farm, and by and by prices will go up again."

20344. What you mean is that you do not press it because they do not till their farms?—I would not press it because they buy so much foreign feeding stuffs.

20345. Although these farms would pay very much better if they were tilled?—That is a very different question—that is the tillage question, which we are going to deal with this afternoon.

20346. Mr. STURTEVANT.—Is it not pretty well established by experiment that pig raising will not pay where you have to buy the feeding material?—Yes; the question of whether pig-raising will pay or not depends upon the price of Indian corn and other things, but generally I should say that the pig will only pay well when it is used to consume the second-class produce of the farm.

20347. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—Is not milk one of the great elements in pig-feeding?—Yes.

20348. And the milk continues whether the potato crop fails, or prices fall, or not?—Yes.

20349. And, therefore, there is an element of very great importance in the feeding of pigs which is constant?—No, because the calves take it.

20350. They take it no matter what the prices are?—But when pork is dear and bacon is dear, it would pay to give milk to pigs, and it is given to pigs; but you cannot argue from the constant production of milk that there should be a constant production of pigs, because it can be given to another class of stock altogether.

20351. Is it not an old rule that the more the milk the more the pigs?—No, because I can tell you of large districts where there is plenty of milk and no pigs. But it is true that the more tillage the more pigs—the more plough the more pigs.

20352. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Considering the poor class of land held by small holders in County

Mayo, is it not marvellous the vast quantity of pigs turned out from that county?—Wonderful.

20353. Do you consider that there would be much difficulty in getting farmers to keep pigs once they were assured of a food supply?—None.

20354. Sir FRANCIS MONAGHAN.—Will you now go on to the question of improvement in sheep breeding?—In the early years of their work the Department tried a scheme for improving the breeding of sheep by a system of subsidizing the rams. Sheep breeding, however, is somewhat different from the breeding of other classes of farm stock, and does not lend itself readily to a premium system. A further difficulty was experienced owing to the prevalence of sheep scab, and accordingly it was found necessary to withdraw the scheme. Recently, however, more stringent measures have been taken for the suppression of sheep scab in England, and the movement of Irish sheep having been threatened with serious obstruction, the County Councils have at last moved in the matter. In anticipation of the extirpation of sheep scab, the Department have for the last two years placed a number of rams in the poorer parts of Galway, Mayo, Donegal, and Kerry. So far as possible, an effort is made to confine their use to those belonging to farmers under a certain valuation. The sheep supplied are Blackfaced, Roscommon, and Cheviot. The rams are sold outright to the farmer at a reduced price, viz., from £2 to £2 10s. for shearlings, and £1 for ram lambs. There are, however, only a few of the latter class, as they are not likely to develop properly when put out so young. The animals, of course, cost the Department considerably more than the price charged, running to about 55 for shearlings and £2 for ram lambs. Then follows, in my memorandum, the number of rams placed out last year, and the names and addresses of the people with whom they were located.

20355. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—We had some evidence given us in County Donegal on the question of the extent to which the capacity of the mountains for feeding sheep would be increased if they were surface drained. Would you agree that it would be increased?—Well, mountain land can be over-drained for sheep. I do not know whether that would apply to Donegal. I am thinking of the Scottish mountains. For sheep-feeding you require a certain class of plant that is not consumed in the summer, but is consumed in the winter, and these are often plants of a nature that require damp soil, and it is within my knowledge that sheep lands have been over-drained in Scotland, to the detriment of sheep stock. But on the other hand there are very, very large areas that have been vastly improved by surface drainage.

20356. Do you consider that you can surface-drain a mountain for sheep, and then put cattle on it—because we had evidence that you could, and that accomplished?—On the farms that I personally know, where surface-drainage has been effectively carried out cattle are not put on the mountain; they undoubtedly, if it is soft, would destroy the drain; but it must depend to a considerable extent on the quality of the animal.

20357. I merely want the general opinion. The point was that if you surface-drain a mountain and put cattle on it, the cattle will destroy the drain?—Certainly.

20358. We have had a good deal of evidence in Donegal and Galway that you could put cattle as well as sheep on surface-drained mountains, and we were asked to recommend Government expenditure in surface-draining. The other point I referred to is this: Do you, in selling outright to a farmer, a shearling or a ram lamb, inquire whether his land is suitable for sheep?—I suppose not?—I will answer it in this way, which will perhaps serve the purpose—that the Department have not issued any instructions with respect to that.

20359. I suppose the Department regards it in this way—that if a man comes and chooses to give £2 10s. for a business is to give the best you can for that £2 10s.?—But we have some regard to the selection of the individual.

20360. But have you any regard to the nature of his holding?—I should say no.

20361. Is it within your knowledge or recollection that you do?—No.

20362. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—From the fact of sheep being there before, you draw an inference?

Feb. 19, 1897.

Professor J.
M. Campbell.

—We have got to rely upon our overseers and inspectors in these matters very largely, and their general instructions are that we want to try and improve the animals, and to give what is of the greatest advantage to the small man. Of course we must to a considerable extent, in the case of sheep, leave the matter to them, because we could not very well go and supervise their work in the mountain districts. The great thing is to sell them a ram at a price above market price so that they could not recall it as a mistake. These men do not thank the Department for the rams. They actually believe they are giving the full price for them, and giving far too much. Our instructions to our inspectors are that we do not want the farmers to know that we are losing money on these rams. It is well to let them imagine they are paying full price. A great number of rams have been placed out.

20355. Are there not far too few?—I entirely agree; all these operations are entirely too limited.

20356. Mr. SERRAVALLO.—Do you think that, speaking generally, the land in Ireland which is suitable for sheep-rearing is used to the fullest extent?—That is a question which I am not prepared to answer, because the mountainous land I do not know well enough myself, and as for the rest of the country I should say that, considering the size of the farms, it is well enough managed, but one's mind naturally goes to a big, well-managed flock, and compared with that, of course, they are not so well managed. But, bearing in mind the circumstances of the small farms—defective fences, and so on—they are perhaps as well managed as can be expected.

20357. What struck me was the absence of sheep altogether—the scanty presence of them!—If you get down to Galway and some of the adjoining districts, you will find great numbers of sheep, and Roscommon is a fine sheep-rearing country.

20358. Sir FRANCIS MORRIS.—Does the snow lie long and thick on the hills?—No.

20359. Not so as to prevent their getting their noses into it?—No.

20360. The next subject to which I would like you to refer is poultry-keeping!—Poultry-keeping is of much importance to the small farmer, and is one of those sources of income which is capable of being greatly increased, when proper attention is paid to the industry. Accordingly, as compared with the rest of Ireland, a larger number of stations whose eggs of pure breeds can be procured have been established in these districts. The view the Department have taken is that instruction and lectures are much less suited to the congested and poorer parts of the country than to the non-congested portions, and accordingly, while there has been a certain amount of instruction, a greater proportion of the money has been devoted to the providing of settings of eggs of pure breeds. The Department never anticipated that the system of instruction would be so popular as it has become, neither did they expect it would continue for many years, but the demand for this class of instruction, not merely in the non-congested counties, but even in the western districts, has been, if anything, increasing from year to year. Last year, however, in order to provide more money for egg stations, the Department asked the County Councils of Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, and Mayo to suspend the school lectures for a while and to devote all the money for poultry-keeping on the provision of new settings of eggs. This suggestion was agreed to, and accordingly the system of lectures was more or less discontinued. Two of the teachers who were formerly employed on this work were continued, but their services were mainly confined to arranging for the supply of eggs and the inspection of the stations. The services of these two instructors being spread over the five counties, their movements have been directed from the Athenry station. During the winter months these instructors look after the stocking of the stations and do their inspection work, while during the spring and summer they resume their demonstrations and instruction. Representatives of some of the counties, however, seem dissatisfied with the withdrawal of the regular lectures, which they consider to have been of great value, and accordingly, as soon as the Department have a further supply of trained teachers, it is intended to meet the wishes of the County Councils, to resume instruction next year. The prin-

cipal object of the schemes in these western districts is to improve the breeding of fowl so as to reduce the death-rate, which in some cases was extensive owing to close breeding and bad management. That there has been an improvement in this respect there is ample evidence to show. The desire of the Committee to continue this work, and the demand of the people for improved breeds, added, perhaps, the best evidence of the value of these schemes. It is somewhat difficult to collect evidence as to the improvement in price and in the size of the eggs. We have, however, got some evidence of the kind.

20361. The table given in your memorandum * does not deal with that?—No. That shows the number of stations in the different districts. You will see Donegal is a blank, but I hope we shall be able to commence there before long.

20362. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you find in the congested counties the influence of the Congested Districts Board on poultry-rearing?—Less in poultry-rearing than anything else, certainly enough. That leads me to think that it will require sustained effort.

20363. Sustained effort is absolutely necessary to get the poorer people to keep up the poultry?—Yes.

20364. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I suppose that interest in poultry-keeping has only developed during the last five or six years?—That is all.

20365. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—From the start the Congested Districts Board had stations in the poorer districts?—Yes.

20366. Mr. SERRAVALLO.—Are these stations centres from which you distribute eggs?—We give birds to the farmer at a small price. He gets thirty birds of a pure breed and a sufficient number of cockerels, but he must sell the produce at a shilling a dozen to any person in the neighbourhood.

20367. That is a shilling a dozen?—Yes; and if the work is carried out satisfactorily at the end of the year he gets a premium of £5.

20368. That is the man who keeps the birds?—Yes, and distributes the eggs.

20369. Is he allowed to breed them himself?—Yes; as much as he likes.

20370. Do you ever find in your experience that some of these eggs are used otherwise than for breeding fowl?—Not as long as he can get a shilling a dozen for them. Some of the holders of these egg stations go into the work with great enthusiasm, and they get very fine birds. They may sell outside their district at higher prices, but it is one of the conditions that they should not do so. They are to be all sold in the district.

20371. Do you confine yourself to improving the breeds of fowl, or do you introduce new ones?—We introduce pure-bred birds of the breed the County Committee may select, and the great object is not only to get pullets of the breed to change the breed altogether, but to get strong cockerels to change the blood in the native breed.

20372. That was as to hens—but with ducks?—With ducks we do the same thing.

20373. Is duck-rearing common in Ireland?—Not so common, but it is pretty general.

20374. Are you increasing it?—I am not prepared to say we have any evidence to show that we are increasing it. It is not so very long at work.

20375. An element in the housing accommodation on these holdings?—Very much so.

20376. Have you done anything to increase or improve the housing?—What we do is to try to get them to adopt the system of movable houses. The majority of these stations have to supply themselves with houses. In some cases they are sold at reduced prices. As a result you will find movable houses being adopted if you go through the country. You will see this driving round the country; not so much in the West, but in the better parts of Ireland.

20377. The people have seen such houses and approve of them, and therefore get them themselves?—They do, and it is the duty of the instructor who goes around to recommend them. We issue leaflets with a description in order that local tradesmen may be able to make them.

20378. Do you find they are sufficiently warm for them?—Yes; you must bear in mind that Ireland is not so cold. The same system is carried out with regard to the breeding of turkeys—I would not say

for the small holders in the West. You see the number of stations in the table in my memorandum.

20379. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Where the land is dry it is possible to have them even on small holdings?—Yes.

20380. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Do you use the American turkey?—Yes.

20381. Mainly?—Altogether.

20382. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Will you kindly go on?—Yesterday, I showed you a few diagrams showing the progress in the thirty-three counties in Ireland. Now I have got tables showing the progress in seven counties. In this one here (indicates) you will observe I add to the black column a certain amount of red. The red indicates special work done by the Department in addition to the work done by the County Committee. This table (indicates) shows the actual expenditure on agricultural schemes in the seven congested counties, the red being, as I said before, for special work undertaken by the Department.

20383. The red indicates the work you began three years ago?—We began the work three years ago, but the point I desire to bring home to the Commission is the fact that the County Committees in the West of Ireland are rapidly taking a grasp of the work, as shown by the amount of work being done year after year. This diagram (indicates) shows the number of mare nominations under the horse-breeding schemes. There has been a great increase in the stallions registered by the Department. The stallions are located by the Department in the congested district. This diagram (indicates) shows the number of premium boars placed out.

20384. What does the significance of that piece of blue mean?—It means the number of animals placed by the County Committees in the scheduled areas. The important thing is to see that there is a great increase going on from year to year in the number of premium boars. Just as in the other counties there was a dropping off at first when the premium was not high enough, now it has gone up. The western counties have far more than their share of available boars, but breeders are taking up the work year by year, and there are more available. This (indicates) shows the number of turkey stations. These two diagrams (indicates) illustrate the work done in Mayo and Galway shires. I have an object in showing those. I will refer to it afterwards, because it illustrates the great jump that was made in Mayo and Galway in the matter of live stock alone when we got from the Congested Districts Board the station at Athlery. I strongly advocate having more of these stations—one in Kerry, and one in Donegal, and I should like to see one, perhaps, in the north of Connaught.

20385. Mr. KATINER.—Is it a breeding farm?—It is.

20386. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It is an agricultural centre?—We call it an agricultural station, the headquarters of our staff. I proceed to Part III of my memorandum, dealing with the special needs of congested areas. I referred to the evidence given in Part I., intended to illustrate the system by which the Department administered its scheme, and now I proceed. Taken as a whole, the Agricultural Committees of the seven western counties where congestion prevails have proved to exception to this rule. They have had special difficulties to contend with—difficulties which must be so apparent to the Commission that it is unnecessary to recapitulate them. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the Committees have made excellent progress in the non-congested parts of the counties where they have been at work for six years. Less progress has, of course, been made in the more backward areas scheduled as congested, but those have been for a much shorter period under the control of the County Committees. I think that is a point which ought to be emphasized. Moreover, the funds available are entirely inadequate for the work; and the people—so long accustomed to the central system of administration—require time to become accustomed to rely on the local representative institutions. That we have found a very important feature in the work. They require a little time to change from one system to the other. Having now got to work in the backward dis-

tricts, however, the County Committee should be permitted to still further develop their operations in these localities. It would be a retrograde step to deprive them of the power with which they have been invested, and it would be disastrous to progress to set limits again to the areas under their control. The barriers between the congested and non-congested areas, which were the cause of so much administrative waste, having now been removed, and the new machinery having been set in motion, there should be no doubt as to the future policy. The influence of the local representative institutions should be extended and not curtailed, and their funds should be increased to keep pace with their growing demands.

20387. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—What do you mean by barrier?—The barrier was in the Act creating the Department. The endowment fund could not be applied to any congested area. That barrier was removed by Section 25 of the Land Act. While that barrier existed there was a great amount of confusion and misunderstanding. It must be admitted that there are in these counties districts as backward that they must, for a time, receive very special treatment by the central authority in order to bring them up to the general level of the rest of the county, so that they may eventually take full advantage of such means for agricultural development as may be provided by the local statutory body. But while these backward districts require special treatment, there is no need to shut them out from the purview of the local committees while their condition is being raised to a higher level. Special schemes, supplementary to those of the County Committees, and more suited to the needs of very poor areas, can be carried on by the Department of Agriculture simultaneously with those of the County Committees. But these special schemes should harmonize with those of the County Committee, and be, in fact as well as in name, supplementary to them. To ensure this they must be administered by the same body and by the same officers as are responsible for the supervision of the work of the County Committee.

20388. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—These special schemes should harmonize with those of the County Committee, and to ensure that they must be administered by the same body and by the same officers as are responsible for the supervision of the work of the County Committee?—Yes. In other words, the Department's inspectors, who are helping the County Committees with their general scheme are, in the opinion of the Department, the best persons to administer the supplementary schemes, because they will be careful to see that the schemes do not clash with or overlap those of the County Committee.

20389. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Are the Commissioners to understand from this paragraph you have read that what you really mean is that the Congested Districts Board should be abolished, and the work taken over by the Department?—My point is that more money is required for these districts, and more work has got to be done, and it should be done by the Department of Agriculture.

20390. There should be, in your opinion, but one department to administer the congested districts, and that department should supersede the Congested Districts Board. Is that what you mean?—It has almost superseded it already. All that is wanted is more funds.

20391. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Your point is that this work has been handed over to the Department of Agriculture by the Congested Districts Board, and your Department requires funds to carry on the supplementary schemes?—That is right.

20392. When it was handed over there was also an appropriation of funds by the Congested Districts Board to your Department in aid?—That was so.

20393. What was the sum?—£2,000.

20394. That was insufficient?—Absolutely insufficient. Whatever system is adopted in future there should be no dual administration. One set of officers should administer both schemes, otherwise there is bound to be overlapping and confusion.

20395. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you intend that to the whole relief and improvement scheme of the Congested Districts Board?—So far as I am concerned I confine it to agricultural development.

20396. To all agricultural development—agricultural development as distinct from land operations.

JULY 19, 1907.

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Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 19, 1907.
 Professor J.
 K. Campbell.

20396. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you not think there is overlapping between special township and County Committee schemes?—We prevent that, because they are the same officers who administer them both. There is no doubt about it whatever that as time goes on the County Committees, being statutory bodies, will assert their rights, and will, in fact, insist on having the administration of these special schemes as well as of their own schemes. If the County Committees want to do that I am in favour of it.

20397. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It present there seems to be three schemes—the Congested Districts Board scheme, the County Committee scheme, and your special scheme?—The Congested Districts Board have withdrawn their scheme.

20398. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you work less through the Parish Committees?—We have to work through the local Committees. It is one of the important parts of our administration. The County Committees are urged by the Department to appoint local Committees—District Committees. We urged them to appoint local Committees to ensure that all districts for which such Committees are responsible get a fair proportion of advantage from the county scheme.

20399. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your schemes in those poor districts require more money. It does not matter to you from what source the money comes, whether from the Congested Districts Board or other source?—Not in the least.

20400. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are these Committees confined solely to members of the County Council?—No. They co-opt outsiders who have special knowledge of this class of work.

20401. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Could you illustrate that, Talla Galway, where you have one part of the country rich, and another part of the country in the West extremely poverty-stricken and miserable. Take the County Committee as now composed. Are there special representatives put on for that poor district?—I mean specially for that purpose?—I am not prepared to answer that question, because I am not sure for what reason they were selected. I am not sure what was in the mind of the County Council that specially nominated persons to serve on this Committee.

20402. As to the constitution of the County Committees, is the greater proportion of members drawn from well-to-do portions and persons who have no knowledge of the western portions so far removed?—No; I think they are pretty evenly distributed. There is no indication that these western districts would require greater representation.

20403. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it not much more difficult for representatives of these districts to attend and know what is going on?—The means of communication in a congested district is not so good.

20404. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Is it not the case that the County Committee is selected from the County Council with other members?—That is so.

20405. Talla Galway. Are the co-opted members specially acquainted with the Congested Districts and put on the Committee for that reason in order to superintend and advise on these Congested Districts?—Yes, from the Congested Districts.

20406. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is the County Committee a statutory body?—Oh, yes.

20407. By the Act?—Under the Department's Act.

20408. But that was before the passing of the Local Government Act, was it not?—After.

20409. An amended Act?—Our Act was passed two years after the Local Government Act.

20410. There was an Agricultural Department before the County Councils, was there not?—There was an Agricultural Department, the Land Commission, and the Congested Districts Board.

20411. But under your Board?—No. The Department of Agriculture was created after the passing of the Local Government Act.

20412. Are there in regard to these Committees any means of putting on people representative really of the people who are benefited by these schemes?—Oh, yes. There may be on the Committee, for instance, members who are actually holders of and receiving premiums.

20413. Do you know them in?—Yes.

20414. To a large extent?—To a very considerable extent, taking Ireland as a whole.

20415. What was the idea in co-opting outsiders?—The idea was that you would get people specially acquainted with live stock, tillage, etc.

20416. That is other than the class who are beneficiaries under the scheme?—They may themselves be beneficiaries under the scheme, and they are. I once expressed the view that that was a very bad arrangement, and I was severely taken to task for it.

20417. It is not a device for getting on theorists, is it?—Oh, no, I do not think so.

20418. Because I know that in schemes of that kind it is wise to eschew theorists as you would poison?—We have some theorists in Ireland.

20419. But they have not been hampered by people of that kind?—I should not like to say that. I know our Department of Agriculture is sometimes hampered by theorists; that is to say, schemes are sometimes proposed that are not practicable. But I should not say that that operates very much on the County Committees. In Ireland things are so different from Scotland. In Scotland the farmer would never think for a moment of applying to the central authority as they do in this country.

20420. If they had a central authority?—Yes. If they had it, but in this country when a man gets an idea into his head, his next business is to communicate it to the central authority. I go on to say the Department's inspectors and overseers who help the Western County Committees in their work of agricultural improvement are clearly the persons who alone can see that any special treatment is made supplementary, and not antagonistic, to that provided by the County Committees. The drawbacks to a system of dual administration of public funds for agricultural development over these areas were well illustrated before 1904, when the Congested Districts Board, the County Committee, and the Department were engaged on conflicting schemes in one and the same area. The evils of that system, and the confusion to which it gave rise, must be so apparent that it seems unnecessary to dwell on the point. There is only one alternative to the present system, and that is to deprive the Department and the County Committee of their statutory powers in all counties where congestion exists, and to create a new agricultural development department and board. In the view of the Department of Agriculture, no such new machinery is necessary. The Department and the local authorities are able, ready, and eager to do the work; the partial difficulties have been overcome; the new machinery is in motion; money and a fixed policy are all that is wanted.

20421. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You seem to take for granted from that statement that your Department is the model for every other organisation?—Oh, no.

20422. Why should not the Congested Districts Board be developed in the same way?—Because it has not statutory functions with respect to the rates.

20423. I am supposing it was possible to reorganise it by statute?—Is that case you would require to have two statutory bodies appointed.

20424. If managed by one exclusively, why should it be by the Department?—The Department exists for the rest of the country.

20425. If you abolish the Department and put the Congested Districts Board over the whole of Ireland it would be the same thing?—There might be a re-arrangement by which neither the Department nor the Congested Districts Board should be abolished. That, of course, argues the doing away with the levying of a rate.

20426. Whatever it might involve—you are assuming that nothing else is possible but the Department?—That is so.

20427. I am pointing out that there may be other alternatives?—I think there would be great administrative waste if another department was established in Ireland.

20428. I do not deny that?—Before proceeding to give details of the supplementary scheme and the funds required for them, it is desirable to briefly review the general agricultural outlook and the possibilities of agricultural development in the West. A clear appreciation of these conditions is necessary if the funds are to be intelligently and profitably applied. That agriculture in Ireland is in a backward condition everyone must admit.

20429. That is a general statement now. I presume you are referring to the west coast?—I refer to the whole of Ireland, with general reference to the West.

20439. Compared with what is in backward?—The general agriculture of Ireland is very backward compared with what exists in one or two of the best counties in Ireland.

20440. Well, but you are comparing it with itself?—I compare the greater part of Ireland with some portions of it.

20441. I think you were limiting this to the West. Take the worst of the West itself. You, no doubt, have seen the cultivation that is there. We have seen, too, corn growing in past. Do you not think it is a great effect of agriculturalists to produce any crops at all in those places? Yes, know the district has been—was referring to—the Rosens in Donegal?—I have not been in the Rosens, but I have been in the south-west corner of Connaught.

20442. And is it worse than you think?—I cannot compare them, but it is very bad down there.

20443. We drove through miles and miles of nothing but granite boulders, and yet amidst all those boulders we saw houses and corn stacks. What astonished me was where the corn came from at all, and where we saw these conditions we found a black peaty patch and the corn stacks built on the top of it, and the soil was cut round the cornstacks. You could see that the soil was taken up for fuel. Can it be a backward system of agriculture that brings any crop at all out of such soil?—But there are many portions of the West of Ireland where still better crops could be got out of them than there is now.

20444. But that applies everywhere?—There could be no better crops raised than are seen in some parts of the Lothians.

20445. Will you or I ever see the day when there will be much better taken out of the Lothians even though we get small holdings?—No. Small holdings will not produce better crops there.

20446. Some of that land is paying £4 an acre?—That is in proximity to towns.

20447. You could not say Haddingtonshire is near the big towns?—The railway brings it nearer to England than big towns in Scotland. Its market, for some of its produce, is London.

20448. Take it acre for acre, Professor, I venture to think the Rosens of Donegal are better cultivated according to the conditions than the Lothians?—The Rosens of Donegal is not all Ireland.

20449. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnovan.—Would you notice the district from which Mr. Gordon comes?—That is very good cultivation.

20450. Contrary to the district that Mr. Sutherland has spoken to you about there is the district of Gweedore. There you would find an area of stones where rocks have been removed to get some soil, and made into a great flag stone about a little plot of land, so that crops are grown within the fences?—I have seen it.

20451. Mr. Sutherland.—Is not that a great effort in industry applied to agriculture?—I cannot admit that, because there are a few very industrious people in spots of Donegal that, therefore, the whole of agriculture in Ireland is good. Neither do I assert, in making the general statement that Ireland is in a backward condition, that agriculture is nowhere good. You must take all the conditions and drawbacks into consideration.

20452. Well, you mean agriculture in Ireland is good all over, having regard to the conditions under which it is carried on?—No.

20453. Would you compare the raw material of Haddingtonshire with Donegal?—No. But you are acquainted with some of the western districts. I know districts there where the land is a great deal poorer than much of the West of Ireland, and where more is being done with it.

20454. I certainly never saw anything better made of poorer material than I saw in Donegal?—Donegal is one county you evidently have studied, and in Donegal it is generally admitted agriculture is a great deal better than the rest of the western counties.

20455. That may be. I am quite prepared to suspend my judgment until I see the rest of Ireland?—I go on to say this backwardness is shown by the preponderance of uneconomic holdings, by the want of working capital.

20456. When you say agriculture in Ireland is in a backward condition, that backwardness must depend upon the way the cultivation is carried on by those who cultivate?—Not necessarily.

20448. You include conditions of tenure and other things?—Certainly.

20449. Then, of course, we are of the same mind?—I am not talking of agriculture simply in the sense in which it applies to the tilling up of the soil. This backwardness is shown by the preponderance of uneconomic holdings; by the want of working capital, or of an inducement to invest in the improvement of land; and by the want of proper housing for the farmer and his family or for his stock. The large and steady increase in the area of second-class pasture, which might yield three or four times more wealth if well tilled; the complacent satisfaction with the present system, which relegates Ireland to the position of a ranch to supply store stock for British farmers to fatten; a too prevalent practice of selling the best and breeding from inferior stock; the almost complete loss in certain districts of the art of tillage; the want of a regular system of rotation; the aversion to going more than the minimum to clean the land; the want of pride in the performance of farm work and in the surroundings of the homestead; the tendency to put off ploughing, sowing, and harvesting until the last moment; the small value that is put upon time; the want of recognition of the fact that the best and most productive manure that goes into the land is labour; all these, and other causes combine to make and to keep Irish farming backward.

20450. The almost complete loss in certain districts of the art of tillage. Does that apply to small holdings in Ireland?—Less in small holdings, and a great deal to large holdings, because the small holder if he has to live must till his land.

20451. Is he following the example of his betters?—Where he can he is, I am sorry to say.

20452. Has he profited by it in the same way as the large holder has?—No. I think the time is coming when we will change all that.

20453. And when the large holder, too, will be compelled to change it?—Yes.

20454. Sir ARTHUR MACDONALD.—On whose part is this complacent satisfaction to which you refer?—It is the complacent satisfaction of farmers generally. I am not referring to the West only. The farmers of Ireland as a whole are satisfied with the system of laying down ranches for breeding and selling at great expense store stock for the British tillage farmer to fatten.

20455. And the land on which that store stock is raised could be more productively employed if split up into tillage farms?—It could.

20456. Then you are an advocate of splitting up those grazing ranches?—I am.

20457. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Of breaking up certain classes of land?—Yes.

20458. Sir ARTHUR MACDONALD.—Is there any class of grazing ranch you would not split up?—What I say is that if the land is split up there will be certain portions of each farm sufficiently good for fattening purposes, and I would not advise the farmer to till it. That is only a small portion.

20459. Do I understand you to advocate the acquisition of the large estate ranches in the West of Ireland and the converting of them into tillage farms?—I am an advocate of having them put under tillage.

20460. Sir JOHN COOKE.—At the same time I understood you yesterday to say that there had been no enquiry, and that you were not prepared in the least to say what would be the economic effect upon small holders in Ireland of breaking up this grass land?—I stated there had been no enquiry.

20461. Do I rightly understand you to say that the Department have not held any enquiry, nor have you yourself examined as to what effect the breaking of the land now used as grazing land would have upon the economic stability of nine-tenths of the small holders of Ireland. Is that so?—I do not say that there has been any official enquiry into it. It is a matter I myself have given a great deal of thought to and I am prepared to discuss the question now.

20462. Are you prepared to give us facts?—What sort of facts would you like me to give.

20463. Facts to establish whether the breaking up of the grass lands of Ireland would, or would not prejudice the ability of the ordinary small holder in Ireland to pay his rent?—Why should it?

20464. I am not going to enter into discussion at present. I misunderstood you yesterday. I thought

Feb. 16, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 12, 1907.
—
Professor J.
R. Campbell.

you said no enquiry had been made. Now you say you have satisfied yourself upon the point?—I do not think that question was raised yesterday if you will pardon me saying so.

20465. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Could you give the Commission your views on the best economic use of land?—Yes.

20466. Sir FRANCIS MURRAY.—That is a point of very considerable importance and we will have to discuss it at length.—It arises a little later.

20467. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—With reference to the cultivation of the land you would not be surprised to hear that you could find in some parts of the North of Ireland whole tracts where a great deal of ploughing is done even before August is out, after the corn is mowed off the land?—That is so, but you are referring now to a very special district.

20468. I merely raised the point with a view to having it brought out that there are districts in Ireland where one can see good cultivation?—Oh, first-class cultivation.

20469. In such districts one could see proper rotation of crops?—I do not admit that you will find the same class of farms as in that district in many counties of Ireland. It is exceptionally good there. At the same time it should be stated that in some parts of Ireland agriculture has attained to a high standard. It must be admitted that the comparison which is sometimes instituted between Irish agriculture and that existing in other countries is often unfair. The descriptions of the excellence of the practices of foreign countries are often exaggerated, and the differences in the conditions under which the two peoples labour are frequently overlooked. It is to be hoped that so soon as the Land Act of 1903 has had time to operate it will be as much the custom to praise and encourage every effort at improvement as it is now the fashion to depreciate them; for nothing can be more depressing than the practice of constantly belittling efforts at improvement, however imperfect, and advertising the virtues and achievements of competitors. The present is, however, a fitting time for plain speaking, and the circumstances justify some departure from what should be the general rule. If the agriculture of Ireland as a whole is backward what is to be said of the Western districts? Compared with the agriculture of the Counties of Down and Westford, it is quite a misnomer of the term to call the operations of the Western peasants agriculture. They have neither land, buildings, capital, nor experience to enable them to carry on successfully the only system of agriculture which the soil, climate, and markets render possible. It is difficult not to be influenced to some extent by the sentiments that surround these people and their methods, which are very little in common with the agriculture pursued in other parts of the United Kingdom; and one almost shrinks from contemplating the introduction among them of that spirit which dominates those agricultural communities so often held up as an example, but whose life is one round of cheerless toil and ceaseless fight against competition. The inhabitants of the West of Ireland cannot, however, be left in their present state of isolation, subject to periodic famine and a constant source of weakness to the country. They have to meet their financial obligations to the Government; they must provide means to equip their families to go out into the world. Accordingly, they must enter into competition with more advanced farmers, and any settlement of the problem must include the introduction of an improved system of agriculture suited to their soil, climate, and distance from markets. The West of Ireland cannot be made a country of market gardens. Intensive cultivation of this nature is often recommended, but those who advocate the system forget that the districts under consideration are far removed from the great centres of population; farmers far better circumstanced as to soil, climate, and situation cannot make it pay; and such a system exposes the possibility of immediately lifting the western peasant from his present backward condition to a prominent place among agriculturists without his passing through the intermediate stages of progress.

20470. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In the Island of Arran a good deal could be done in early cultivation. The climate is certainly possible?—Yes, but the difficulty is the small size of the plots. We have tried early potato growing, and we find that early

potato growing is difficult to introduce even in the best districts. Not that it is difficult to grow potatoes, but to get a sufficient volume of trade to create a market, and tempt potato dealers in big markets to buy. We have had some excellent results from our early potato growing experiments.

20471. Is not the late frost the great enemy?—I should not say that it is the great enemy. The great enemy to Ireland is Scotland. Our object is to get in between the Jersey Island and Scotch crops. There is a blank there which Ireland could fill. At present the big factors in Glasgow and other big towns having their old customers would not look at Ireland. You must get in before the great potato growing districts in Scotland. If you do this there is a capital price.

20472. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The market is not long?—No.

20473. It is possibly Scotland's superiority of climate?—There has been several cases in Ireland of £40 or £50 per statute acre, and of getting another crop in the same year.

20474. Where was it carried on in Ireland?—In the County Cork, towards Glouchter, and near Youghal. The reason we selected those districts was because the farmers there were well-to-do; they have a considerable area, and there was a likelihood of their growing such quantities that merchants from Glasgow and Liverpool will come over and buy the crops. Merchants will not touch small quantities, and that is one of the difficulties with regard to the western districts where you may have soil and climate, but not a large area under the crops. The small man would never get in alone, unless subsidised.

20475. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The area devoted to that in Scotland is not very large?—There is a very considerable area in Ayrshire, and as you know, the early potato trade is one which is growing.

20476. In fact, the general planting of potatoes is much earlier every year?—Oh, yes.

20477. You did not find any difficulty beyond the fact that the demand was short, and Scottish merchants were in before you. The people were carrying it out just as well as in Scotland?—No; they did not till their land so well as we would like them. We have had to plough and cultivate their land for them. They will get into it in a few years.

20478. But, as a matter of fact, the principal workers in Scotland are Irish labourers?—No; that is a fallacy that has got abroad. The Irish labourer who works in the potato fields in Ayrshire and other parts of the South of Scotland only lifts and digs the potatoes. That is the difficulty, and that is the reason why, when the Irish agricultural labourer comes home, he does not bring with him tillage methods. A friend of mine, who employs a large number of people in Ireland, says he would not trust Irish labourers with his acres and carts. They are not accustomed with the handling of horses and carts, and with the methods.

20479. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—They go for a specific purpose only?—Yes.

20480. By what date are these early potatoes in the market?—In June, or early in July. The sales take place before that, but the potatoes are sold when in the ground.

20481. You could get potatoes very much earlier?—The earliest we have in Ireland is 28th May, but that is exceptional.

20482. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—If you could get them in the beginning of May, you would have a very good market?—The beginning of June. We could not get them in May.

20483. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You speak of the starting of this early potato experiment in Cork. You mean it was by the Department?—Yes.

20484. How long ago was it?—We have been there four or five years.

20485. And has the industry been a continued success?—It is growing?—It is growing, but slowly. It gets larger every year.

20486. And in no case has late frost spoilt the crop?—I would not say it has not spoiled it. It has done some damage, but in no case has the crop failed.

20487. Is it not the case that in some parts of the West of Ireland if you sow early potatoes they come on very quickly, but there comes frost in April and May, and in consequence of this rapid growth they are cut down and the potatoes are longer in coming to

majority than if they had been sown later?—No. There was one year where we had a setback owing to the frost, but, then, they were affected worse in Scotland.

20487. But the conditions are different in Scotland. When the weather gets milder, the frost is done. In South-West Ireland the winters are warm, but there come late frosts, and you are thrown back?—There is a risk of that, certainly. I appreciate the point.

20488. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The latter part of your examination shows that you are of opinion that the early potato trade could be established for the English market in the West of Ireland?—Not until we have got a footing in the markets of Great Britain by means of utilizing the bigger and more advanced districts.

20489. Assuming that arrangement can be made, and the necessary encouragement given, do you think it is possible to produce on the west coast of Ireland early potatoes which you could sell in the English market as they come on at prices fairly profitable compared with those obtained by the Scottish agricultural people?—Yes, it is possible.

20490. When you, as agricultural people, do you include small and small holders?—I may include that, but what I guard against is the assumption that you could take existing small farmers and rapidly convert them into early potato growers.

20491. That you would have difficulty in doing?—Taking the younger men, there is no reason why such a thing could not be possible.

20492. There is nothing in the soil or condition of climate that renders it impossible?—No.

20493. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And the larger holdings lend themselves more readily to it?—When we get a large area, we can get over the principal factors from Glasgow and Liverpool. We can get them over to see a large area, but you could not get them over to see a few patches.

20494. The only system of agriculture which the soil and climate render possible is the production of roots, potatoes, corn, hay, and grass; since these commodities cannot be exported, but must be converted into beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese, eggs and poultry—products for which there is always a sale, if not a good price. This, however, is merely the system of agriculture in vogue in the rest of Ireland and in Great Britain. To it there is no alternative. The only question to be considered is the particular line along which the western farmer should specialize.

20495. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is that an exhaustive enumeration of the productions possible in the West of Ireland—oats, potatoes, corn, hay and grass?—Yes.

20496. Exhaustive?—Yes, if you take the widest sense of the term roots.

20497. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Upon the whole, when the system is adapted to the circumstances of the people, there is only the question as to degree of perfection?—The present system.

20498. The system is one which only requires to be brought to a better state?—Yes.

20499. Because all these things are practical farming operations?—Yes, except beef.

20500. Do they not do that?—I am not including steers as beef just now.

20501. But except that?—Yes; I would like to make that distinction. I now come to the question of tillage and grazing. That land well tilled yields better and supports more labour than when left under grass is indisputable.

20502. You know that that was disputed before us?—Who disputed that?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Mr. Wrench.

Mr. ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I think he referred to the very best sort of grass land.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I put the question to him very pointedly.

20503. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I think you referred to the very heavy land in Meath. The idea was that the best fattening land was not suitable for tillage at all?—That is only true, if it is very heavy.

20504. We were confronted with experiments made by the late Mr. McCann in the neighbourhood of Navan. He split up into farms of 12 or 15 acres some of the excellent grazing land, fattening land, of the district, and in the result the land was found to be more suitable for agricultural purposes?—I am

sure it would be. I have seen these lands, and I should say they would be very suitable.

20505. That is a contradiction of the statement that has been made, I think Mr. Sutherland is quite right in saying by Mr. Wrench, that this fattening land is not suitable for agricultural purposes?—The idea about these lands is that they are too rich and that the crops fall down.

20506. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In a wet season?—Roots won't fall down. Turnips, potatoes, and cabbages won't fall down, and if grain does fall down, it will only be for the first few years. Believe me, the difficulty is to get land rich enough.

20507. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You said just now that, in cases where the land was very heavy, tillage is not suitable?—The reason of that is that it is very expensive to till heavy land, and the expense of tilling it might be so great that it would be far better to leave it under grazing if it is fattening land. I am myself strongly in favour of having in Ireland a large area of fattening lands, in order to supply regular quantities of beef to Great Britain, not only in winter, but in summer.

20508. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But your general statement is that there is no exception to the proposition that land of all sorts can be most profitably employed by being devoted to agriculture?—Yes, after it has been a few years under cultivation. It might be unprofitable for the first few years, because of the accumulated fertility during all these years, but that will disappear after a few rotations.

20509. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean after four or five years?—The corn crop, the first year, might certainly fall down. If you began with oats they would fall down. Then, if you had roots the second year they would be a magnificent crop. If you take oats again they might fall down, but when you come to repeat the rotation the land might require sowing.

20510. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—We have it on your authority that land can be employed more profitably under agriculture than in pasturage?—Yes.

20511. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you make that observation without any reservation?—Do you mean all sorts of land? Sir Anthony did not qualify his question, it is the broad question of all land. I would not commit myself to the tillage of poor land.

20512. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Your exceptions would be at the other end?—Most decidedly.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is new to me, on the evidence.

20513. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you know the Golden Vale of Tipperary?—Yes.

20514. Do you know New Falias and Oola districts and the country in those districts?—My acquaintance with them is not very great, but I have been through the district.

20515. Am I to take it from you that you consider that land would pay better if tilled?—You may take it from me if a farmer has 100 acres of that land it would pay him very well if he tilled a very considerable portion of it.

20516. Would it pay him better?—It would pay him better than to leave it all in grass. It would yield more national wealth.

20517. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It would lead to more national wealth?—Yes.

20518. But the particular farmer we are dealing with perhaps regards his homestead and his own affairs before the nation. Would he get a larger income out of it by tilling it than he would simply by grazing?—I say here, somewhere, that there might be a question as to the profitability of tillage where the farmer becomes an employer of labour, but that there is no doubt whatever about the profitability when the farmer is his own labourer and works his own land. I do not think that tillage on an extensive scale would pay in Ireland with the present class of labour. It might, but I don't think it would at the present time, although the wages are low. You do not get the same value for your money that you do for a bigger wage in the good tillage districts.

20519. Then we come back to the fact that from the tenant's point of view, except in the case of a small tenant, it may very well be that he makes a larger income out of a tract of feeding land than he does out of a tract of feeding land the greater portion of which he tills, and which therefore requires more labour?—I stick to that; even on a large farm it will pay to till a portion, but if the farmer goes in for tillage altogether I have very grave doubts

Feb. 16, 1907.

—
Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 19, 1907.
 Professor J.
 R. Campbell.

as to whether, with the present state of labour, he would work it profitably, but of course the national wealth would be enormously increased.

20317. I take it is a mixed system you would recommend. Under such a system of tillage would not the greater part of a tillage farm be really under grass?—It depends on the rotation.

20318. I take it is a mixed system you would recommend?—Take Dangan where the land is not so good in parts. That is land which would not stand constant cropping. It would have to have a rest. But there are parts of Ireland very different. Take the Department's farm at Glenties. That land is under constant rotation. It is never likely to get a rest. There are huge tracts of land in Ireland that never would require a rest from tillage. But where the land is poor and that there you would require to rest it. In that case a part of the farm would be under grass even though it was looked upon as a tillage farm.

21519. But from the mere point of view of feeding stock on the farm would not it be an advantage to have some of it under grass?—It would be absolutely necessary.

21520. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Take this new holding that has been suggested for migration from the West of Ireland. What proportion of that holding—let us call it a tillage holding—should be under grass as a rule?

21521. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It would depend on the rotation, would not it?—I would recommend the usual rotation such as is wanted for this class of farms I have described here. I have just had an interview with a number of new occupiers in Roscommon. I saw a most interesting experiment—nine farms newly formed.

21522. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Were these men new purchasers?—Yes. Nine new occupiers; men who had been selected for it.

21523. Were their lands that had been used in grass?—Yes.

21524. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Who conducted the operation?—Mr. Fitzgibbon, of Castlebar.

21525. He sold it himself?—No, through the Estate Commissioners. He owned the land in some way or another. It was a most interesting experiment. Each farm consists of thirty acres at least. They are striping that land, and we had a long discussion as to what they were going to do with it. Some of them had never thought of what they were going to do. One man had thought very seriously as to it and had come to the conclusion that nothing would pay better than dairying and that he would start by tilling a quarter of his land. He would have two acres of roots, four acres of oats, and two of seeds, and as his family increased he would till more of it, and that I believe is what would pay him best.

20526. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That is eight acres out of a thirty-acre holding?—Yes.

20527. That would be more than two-thirds under pasture?—Yes.

20528. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Hence, if you give very good spots of land here and there there would be no difficulty under a system of tillage in leaving the best land under grass?—Yes. I am quite sure there will be none.

20529. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I suppose in determining the amount of land to bring under tillage he was influenced by the capital at his disposal for buying a horse, implements, and so forth?—He was, but not so much by the question of a horse. He must get one horse whether he tills much or little.

20530. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The conclusion seems to be you would not at all limit the taking up of grass ranches to the western province; you would recommend it for such places as Meath also?—I want to guard myself on this point. Take the butter industry. Our butter industry is suffering because we only produce in summer and not in winter. I would like to see a good supply of beef in summer as well as in winter, and accordingly you do want to have fattening lands to produce summer beef. It would be a mistake to go in only for winter beef production. You must have summer beef and for that you want the good grazing lands. From that point of view it would be a great mistake to destroy the best grazing lands.

20531. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—As a corollary of that, that being so, and seeing that roots, potatoes, corn, hay, and grass, cannot by themselves be exported, but must be converted into beef, mutton, and

pork, it is a necessity of agricultural life that there should be grazing lands maintained even in the West of Ireland?—Even in the West of Ireland that is an absolute necessity.

20532. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What you say about the importance of producing beef from grass does not alter the conclusion that even in Meath a large portion of the land might be put under tillage with advantage?—There is plenty of it that could be put under tillage.

20533. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Of such extreme national importance is that point that I must put one or two questions. Let me clear the ground by being quite certain that I understood you rightly. First, you have given your opinion that all land would pay better under tillage than under grass?—All land except bad land, and then also a portion of the good land only.

20534. I will come to that. We are clear on that other point?—Yes.

20535. Now I understand from your answer to his leading that you say that for the national good of Ireland there should be some reservation of grass lands?—Fattening lands.

20536. Then dealing with the breed policy, the resettlement of the population, which involves the breaking up and smelting grass lands, it would be very important, would it not, to understand exactly what the reservation should be as to the nature of the land, and the quality of the land, that should be reserved when contemplating carrying out a scheme of migration or striping?—Yes.

20537. You agree with that?—Yes. It is very important.

20538. Therefore, while you agree with the general policy of taking up grass lands for the purpose of settlement and encouraging tillage, is it with the qualification that in carrying out that policy there must be large reservations of grazing land left untouched in order to meet the economic necessities of Ireland. Am I right? Is that your view?—That is not quite a question for an agricultural expert, but perhaps I do not understand you.

20539. You say it is not a question for an agricultural expert, yet it is a policy involving an entire rearrangement with the aid of State money to produce certain results, that is to improve agriculture; is it not an agricultural question what is the reservation of grass lands necessary for the grazing of stores reared by the small holders?—As to whether it is or is not won't affect subsequent questions. If you put them I will try to answer them. As to whether that is a question for an agricultural expert or not I waive that point, and I will try to answer any subsequent questions you may put.

20540. I think I have got what I want for my purpose. From a national point of view it is your opinion that there should be a reservation of grass land left untouched by any policy of striping or breaking up grass land; that there should be a very considerable reservation of the best grass land to meet the agricultural wants of the rest of Ireland?—I am afraid I did not follow your meaning at first. I see it in a different light now. Certainly, I think so. There ought to be a reservation, particularly if we all come to the conclusion that beef production is the best policy for the farmers in the future. If, on the other hand, we were to come to the conclusion that dairying, pig-rearing, and poultry-keeping were the best and were much more profitable than beef production or store production, then I would say we need not require to reserve any at all. I think that is a question that will solve itself. The prices that prevail during the next ten or a dozen years will largely determine whether the land is to be tilled or left under grass.

20541. In order, finally, to see that I am not misunderstanding you, you commit yourself to the general statement that all land except really bad land will pay better under tillage than under grass; now, do you mean that under present conditions of labour in Ireland that tillage would pay better than grass?—Let me answer you again. I think I have answered you already.

20542. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You may be a little at cross purposes. The word "pay" may be a little different in Mr. Campbell's mind from what it is in the mind of Sir John?—I take the case of the thirty-acre holdings I saw in Roscommon. That

these holdings will pay better if the farmers till portion of them there is no shadow of doubt; so long as they employ their own time, and work on their own farms, there will be a better return. On the other hand, suppose you take 500 acres of land in Meath and till it, then, under existing conditions of labour, I doubt if it will pay.

20543. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—Take the thirty-acre farm that you have used as an illustration. Suppose that farmer's sons have the disinclination to work on the land that you mentioned, do you mean to say that it will be more remunerative to him to put his land into tillage than under grass?—Assuredly.

20544. Under the condition of having to hire labour?—He won't require to hire much labour. There is the farmer himself, and his son who is to succeed him, the two of them will work it very largely between them, and even in the case of young unmarried men they will be able to till the quantity mentioned—two acres of green crops, which necessitates four acres of oats and two acres of seeds. Our man will be able to do that without very much help, and I question whether if he gets an active wife to attend to the stocks he won't be able to do it himself.

20545. What you mean by a tillage farm is enough of the land in tillage to keep the milk supply constant winter and summer, or to keep the cows going and have butter-making winter and summer, which cannot be done without tillage?—Not necessarily milk. He may keep his stores in winter in the house.

20546. That is really what you mean by tillage farming?—That is what I mean. At present many of these holdings are entirely under grass, and it will pay the farmer to till as much as he can till himself, and I will go so far as to say that it will pay him to till when he employs a labourer; but when he becomes an extensive employer of labour that is where I begin to doubt whether it is profitable.

20547. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—This question of the comparison between pasture and tillage was first given to us in this form, that if a small holder tilled a part of his farm and kept a small portion of his holding for feeding he would not be able to feed his young stock through two winters, and he would be still compelled to sell them after practically they had become one-and-a-half years old. It was stated to us that if the great pasture lands were withdrawn and broken up into tillage there would not be sufficient pasture land for the annual output of young stock; or, in other words, that you would lose the proportion of feeding land which you have got now for the big stock; it comes to this, that the small holder could not profitably rear his stock up to the third year?—We don't want them to rear them to three years old. It is a most wasteful practice. I am entirely opposed to it. You might travel Scotland all over, and except very occasionally in very remote districts, you would never see three-year-old oxen. Why should you keep a beast three years if you can fatten it in two? On the face of it the practice is wasteful.

20548. The young stock are generally born in May?—That is not a good time. Stock should be born in February or March.

20549. You would have to keep them through a second winter?—The profitable way of dealing with stock of that kind, if you go in for keeping them is to have the calves, say, in spring, rear and feed them throughout, so that when two years old, they are fat. Take East Scotland, where they still rear some calves, though they depend a great deal on Ireland for stores. There they never keep bullocks till three years old. They sell as two-year-olds, what is known as baby beef, or prime Scotch, which gets the top prices and escapes the competition of the foreigners who produce second-class cheap beef.

20550. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—Are you speaking of small holdings in Scotland?—No.

20551. I was talking of small holdings where they cannot keep the stock beyond a certain age and are obliged to part with it?—Why?

20552. Because the capacity of the land will only allow it to carry a certain amount of stock, and as the cows go on calving something must go out?—His stock need not be all cows. He can have two cows, two calves, two yearlings, and two two-year-olds.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—I think the evidence given by Mr. Finucane and Mr. Bailey confirms that of the Professor. They were in favour of keeping the stock to two years old, and selling it fat at that age.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That would put an end to the great grazing industry in Ireland.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—It was given on that assumption.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am not contending that. I only want to elicit the Professor's opinion, because this is a question which is very generally discussed.

20553. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—What would be the result of the splitting up of the grazing ranches into small farms?—A farmer would either have to remain a grazer, in which case there would be no change in the grass lands, or he would become a mixed tillage farmer, and rear his stores with the prospect of sending them to Scotland to be finished in the stalls or to Meath to be fattened in summer, or he would himself fatten them.

20554. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—As I have pointed out, the cows would go on calving, while the carrying capacity of the land is a fixed quantity, more or less, and the stock can be kept to a certain point, and cannot be in excess of that point, which is measured by the capacity of the land. Your answer to me was that the cows might be reduced?—I have misunderstood you perhaps.

20555. Take a small farm in the West of Ireland. Say the farm carries three cows. The occupier's main industry is butter. As the new calves come, the old calves grow, and he is obliged to lessen his stock, and what he sells is what brings him at the moment most money. The small holders in the West and South of Ireland generally have to part with their stock before two years old, because they cannot keep them on their holdings. These stores are sold in the fairs, they go away from the place where they were reared. The Irish grazer comes in as a buyer. The small farmer has to part with these stores before such time as they can be sold at a better profit in the English or Scotch market. What is your answer to that?—Why should not he keep fewer breeding cows, and so stock his farm that each year he will have two cows, two calves, and two two-year-olds? The two-year-olds will either go to be finished by someone else, or the farmer will finish them himself.

20556. Take the conditions under which the small holders in the South and West of Ireland carry on the farming business: do you really wish us to understand that he can possibly finish his beast?—Yes, if he had, as I am going to describe directly, proper buildings for the purpose. Why should not he? Why should we assume that a beast won't fatten in Ireland?

20557. I am dealing with the present situation and proposals for the immediate carrying out of a policy of breaking up the grass lands now. Do you recognize any difficulty at all?—No. I get over it in a very easy manner. I believe that the question of fattening cattle and the question of raising stores is nearly at an end in Ireland; and in my memorandum I advocate very strongly a totally different system of farming, namely, the production of produce which has not gone down in price and in which there is not the same foreign competition as in beef. I advocate dairying, pig feeding, and poultry rearing. I don't know whether you are aware of the enormous increase that has taken place in the imports of beef into this country. Take the Argentine. In 1880 there were only 7,000 cwt. of dead meat from that country; in 1894 it was four millions; in 1907 I would not be surprised if there are two millions more. If you turn to page 5 of my memorandum,* and look at the amount of fresh beef imported, you will see that in 1880 it was only about a million; in 1905 it was five million. It is the same in the case of mutton. In bacon there was not the same increase; in eggs there was not the same increase, and in poultry there was not this increase. Now take the prices. Look how beef has fallen. In 1885 it was 22 1/2 lb. per cwt., and it is now down to 21 1/2 lb. But bacon has not fallen too; it has increased in price. Butter has not fallen; it has increased, if anything. Eggs have not fallen. These are the three articles which the Irish farmer should seek to produce. It is a system of farming that suits mixed tillage, and it is admirably adapted for small farming.

20558. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The system which you recommended would come in under an improved scheme of small farming?—Yes. It does not preclude a system of beef-production; but Sir John's difficulty is, that under existing conditions it could not be done. I don't think he disputes the fact that it is possible. No one can dispute the fact

Feb. 10, 1907.
Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 12, 1907.
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 Professor J.
 H. Campbell.

that two bullocks in a house would fatten just as well as fifty, but the difficulty is that they have not got the proper housing, then that I am coming to deal with. I believe the present system of giving thirty-acre holdings without proper building disastrous. Some of the new holders have got from the Estates Commissioners £30 for buildings. It would be far better to give them four times that amount and add it to their annuity. Then they could make a proper start.

20559. Sir JOHN COTTELL.—I am dealing with the conditions as they now exist, and assuming that they will exist for at least a generation or two, for the reason that, on the face of your own evidence as to the condition of labour and the want of agricultural knowledge, I don't look on such a complete change as being possible under a couple of generations. I am thinking of the present and the next thirty or forty years. Your attitude, perhaps, is this: seeing the changes that are going on, and the conditions that are rising, you consider that these conditions cannot in the economic sense continue: is that so? that the present mode of farming in Ireland cannot continue without disaster in view of the importation of foreign produce?—Yes. It is the beef and store industry I am referring to.

20560. Are we agreed that, at present, beef and butter are in the main the principal commodities of farming production in Ireland?—At present.

20561. You don't regard the continuance of the beef business as a likely thing?—No.

20562. At the same time, you advocate taking the grass lands and breaking them up into small farms for tillage. Must not the process of taking the grass lands and breaking them up for tillage, for re-settlement, be rather slow and only keep pace with the adaptation of the small farmers of Ireland to those new conditions?—It is desirable to proceed slowly, and it is likely to proceed slowly. And because it is sure to proceed slowly I say that no inconvenience whatever is likely to arise. It cannot take place in one year.

20563. When I talk of going slowly, I am talking of a generation or two: you are talking of only a few years?—From the point of view of avoiding inconvenience and dislocation of trade, the rate at which the land purchase operations are going on will give the farmers ample time to make changes in their system, if it is necessary; but I must maintain that, in the case of a thirty-acre holding of fairly good land, such as those which I saw in Roscommon the other day, there is nothing whatever to prevent the farmer, if he has the buildings and the capital, from maintaining the present system if he likes. But he has not got the buildings, and that is my difficulty.

20564. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What can he do. Rear his own stock?—Yes.

20565. And fatten them?—Yes.

20566. Either on grass or through stall-feeding?—Through stall-feeding—not on grass. That land would not fatten.

20567. Under that system which you recommend all the profit would go into the pockets of the small occupier?—It would be all his own.

20568. Did you say there was not any future for Irish beef even under a system of that kind?—I don't think so. I don't look forward to a future for Irish beef with the improvement that is taking place in the Argentine. We were talking this morning of the price the Argentine was paying for bulls. The average price at the Perth sales has gone up from £19 a few years ago to £34 last year, as the Argentine buyers are taking the pick of our best stock. What does that mean?—It means that beef which they are sending to us at 24s., 3s., or 4s. is by-and-by going to come in at 34s., 4s., or 5s., and whereas the Scotch farmer in a good season now escapes competition by producing prime beef, he too will be subject to competition from the Argentine sooner or later, and it will press all the heavier then on the small occupier in Ireland. I would strongly advise the new occupiers to adopt the system of dairying combined with pig-rearing and poultry-keeping rather than go in for fattening. And I say so also for another reason. We can hardly expect these small farmers at first to fatten their stock properly, because it is a technical process and requires experience, whereas they all understand dairying; and nothing responds to good farming and care and attention more than milk production. If

a farmer is careful of his cow this week, he will reap the profit next week at the dairy; whereas improvement in his ox as the result of extra care may be all lost in a fall in the price of beef.

20569. Is the Argentine capable of producing as cheap a mutton as can be got in Ireland?—It is.

20570. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is a serious outlook for Scotland too!—The only chance Scotland has of evading competition is by producing the finest beef with which she will always have the advantage over the Argentine, since the beef from that country will have to be chilled, which reduces its value somewhat.

20571. At the present time this fattening in Ireland is done on ranches, and the proposal you contemplate is that, instead of being done on ranches by one person, it will be practically open to each producer to fatten his own cattle: is not that it, shortly?—Not on the second-class grass lands. These are the lands we have all in our minds, like the lands I saw the other day in Roscommon. There the land if kept in grass is only fit for rearing steers. It would not fatten in the present condition.

20572. If you took the best land and divided it, the new holders would be just as capable of finishing off cattle as the present big men?—Perhaps.

20573. They would do what he is doing at present in Ireland?—Yes, but the conditions are a little different. It is complicated by the fact that the best grazing lands in Ireland are mostly situated in one county.

20574. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—With regard to what you say is the disastrous policy pursued by the Estates Commissioners now in not making adequate advances for the construction of houses and farm buildings, do you deal with that in another part of your memorandum?—I do.

20575. Because I would like to ask you some questions on that, but I can postpone them?—It would be as well to take it now, perhaps.

20576. Even at present, where a tract of grazing land is bought and split up into farms and given to those young men, sons of tenants, and so on, they address themselves with considerable foresight, for them, to the cultivation of the land; but you say they are handicapped by the fact that the Estates Commissioners don't advance money for the erection of farm buildings, etc.?—They do advance some, but not a sufficient sum—£20.

20577. For a farm of thirty acres, what do you think would be a fair advance that should be made for the construction of farm buildings, etc.: I don't mean for the purchase of stock, but for the construction of farm buildings?—The question is a little complicated by the fact that the only figures we have for this sort of thing are where the buildings are put up by contract. Under the Estates Commissioners' system, which is an excellent one, of giving the occupier a certain sum of money to enable them to erect the buildings, the work can be done for a great deal less. Let us assume that the Irish farmer is going to compete with the British farmer. What has the British farmer got? He has got buildings equal to £10 per acre.

20578. Then you would require £300 to provide these buildings?—If equally good buildings were put up by contract, but a lesser sum given to the farmer himself would do, he cutting the stones, acting as labourer to the mason when he employs, and, perhaps, as they do in some parts of Scotland, putting up walls themselves, and employing a carpenter to put on the roof, and a slater to put on the slates. The cost would, in this way, be very largely reduced. £30 is not sufficient to enable him to erect a dwelling on this system.

20579. Quite insufficient?—Yes.

20580. Some are getting £20, some are getting more. It is not understood that the amount they get will be sufficient for all they have got to do. It is more a help. There are thirty acres in each of the farms to which you refer. Probably that land was worth ten shillings an acre. The second term rent of that land would be £15. Let us say now that that holding is bought for twenty-five years' purchase—is it a big price, but let us say it—that would be £375. If the tenant were to get a loan of £300, which would also have to be met, you see at once that the holding would not be security for the advance?—I don't ask £300.

20581. Let us say that you require £100?—At least £100.

25682. In that case the tenant would be responsible for £475, and the 3½ per cent. which he would have to pay on that would be £16. That is more than the original rent!—Yes, but how is he to carry on tillage farming without buildings?

25683. There is, as you know yourself, a very considerable quantity of money saved up in the country, and the idea is that he would get from his father or his relations some capital to erect necessary buildings. At all events if you had journeyed extensively through Galway you would have seen holdings, as I have seen holdings of the size you have mentioned in the neighbourhood of Loughrea, on which you would find excellent houses, two-storied houses, by people who have got £350 or £500, certainly never above £600. The house in which they used to live themselves had been turned into a cow-house, and they themselves have migrated into the better house, and in two or three years time they will put up the farm buildings!—In other words, the farmer is not only expected to pay interest in the annuity, but to supply himself with buildings out of his profits.

25684. He has to go slowly for some time, but by increasing the advance which the Estates Commissioners make to the farmer you would place upon him at once a burden in the shape of an increased annuity which the farmer would find it more difficult to repay, and for which the Estates Commissioners would not consider the holding security!—Yes, but without buildings we can never expect the system of farming I advocate. You cannot expect good tillage if the farmer has no buildings and capital, and the idea of a man carrying on a dairy in the old dwelling house for instance is entirely out of the question.

25685. Have the farmers with whom you have been brought in contact perceived that important fact?—Yes, indeed, they have.

25686. Have they made efforts to provide for it?—They cannot. The farmers I speak of told me that they have not money to stock their lands. They have got to use their money to put up a dwelling-house. The position is most serious. I don't see how the Department of Agriculture, or any other body, can develop agriculture unless some means can be found for financing these men.

25687. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But cottage dairies would not cost much!—But what of the cow-house, the byre, and the barn?

25688. The addition of a dairy is a great improvement on a small farm!—Yes, but that is not a very heavy expenditure.

25689. Sir JOHN COLVILL.—Let me picture the newly created thirty-acre farm with the house built upon it. You say there is no use expecting that farm to be thoroughly worked until there are out-buildings on it; what are the buildings you refer to, and for what purpose are they required?—Suppose he is going in for dairying also—

25690. I am supposing the occupier is going in for treating the farm as it should be treated to get the best results. Give me a list of the buildings that he would have in that case!—He requires, first of all, a cow-house.

25691. For how many head?—On this thirty-acre farm he will keep twelve cows. It may be they are partly cows with their followers, i.e., with their calves and yearlings and two-year-olds, or it may be that they are all cows. Then he has to have such accommodation as will enable him to keep these animals in a healthy condition. You have doubtless seen the recent Report of the Commission on Tuberculosis. The question is now being raised about tuberculosis in Irish cattle. It can only be kept down if you give the cows sufficient air space and plenty of light. Then, in addition to the cow-house the farmer requires a stable for his horse.

25692. Must one man keep one horse for a thirty-acre farm?—Yes. He requires a barn and a place for his roots and for feeding stuffs, &c.

25693. Do you mean a covered place; he merely requires a place to dump them down; he does not require a cover for that?—He should.

25694. All I can say is I grow hundreds and hundreds of tons of roots and I never had a root under cover in my life!—Perhaps you never fed your cattle in the proper way.

25695. I am bound to say it amazes me that you claim as a necessity a covered place to store roots on a thirty-acre farm!—It need not be extensive; a cart

shed, sometimes used for his roots and sometimes used for his cart, will do.

25696. A general shelter!—Yes. Then he wants a house for pigs and a place for the fowl.

25697. Could not you have a moveable fowl-house?; the idea of a permanent house is exploded!—Not altogether. We have also to provide for his calves. There is the minimum.

25698. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—I wonder are there many thirty-acre farms in England, Scotland, or Wales that have accommodation equal to that?—Yes; very many.

25699. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Much superior!—Yes, much superior. On farms in Aberdeenshire, you may see from the report of the Small Holdings Committee—some of the farmers have been putting on thirty-acre holdings buildings that cost £15 per acre, and these are the men that the Irishman is going to compete with. How can you possibly expect we are going to compete if we start handicapped in the race.

25700. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In the League you know that the farmstead cost £200!—Yes.

25701. Sir JOHN COLVILL.—Is it necessary that all these buildings should be permanent stone buildings and if not which of them might be of corrugated iron?—The roof of some of them might be of corrugated iron.

25702. The roof of all!—No. I would not put cows under an iron roof.

25703. Why?—Because it is not healthy. It creates and is sometimes exceedingly cold.

25704. The cow-house must be slated!—Yes, or thatched.

25705. The stable?—The stable the same.

25706. The pigsty?—The same.

25707. And the fowl-house?—Certainly not iron.

25708. Then, the only thing you would have iron on would be the barn!—The barn and the store.

25709. As regards the walls, must they be of stone?—I don't know what other materials are available. This question has engaged a good deal of attention in Scotland recently, and has been made the subject of a report. In some cases cross-hatched wood has been used. There is a discussion among builders at present whether cheaper materials could not be got, because of course this question is at the root of the whole question of the creation of small holdings.

25710. Taking the climatic conditions is there not a difference between the nature of what is required in Scotland and what is necessary in the south and west of Ireland. You have not got in those parts of Ireland the great changes of temperature and other conditions that prejudice the use of iron roofs in Scotland?—I would not put cows under an iron roof. The greater difficulty, in my mind, is not the cost of the roof, but the number of cubic feet of air space you may have to give the cows.

25711. It will make all the difference in the cost whether you are going to have corrugated iron houses or are going to have slated buildings of bricks or stone. I am asking you in reference to the amount of money required?—I am looking at it entirely from the point of view of the farmer, and what he can do with the land.

25712. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You give us the equipment you consider necessary?—I gave the equipment of our competition.

25713. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—At what do you state the cost of that equipment?—I could not give the figure. In the Small Holdings report—

25714. I would not attach too much importance to that. Would you like to hear what it cost the Congested Districts Board in Scotland?—I would like to hear the cubic space they give the cows. It is a question of great importance, and will affect Ireland sooner or later. In Great Britain there is a conflict between the local authorities and the farmers about the cubic space for cows. The local authorities won't allow milk or butter to be sent from farms where the cubic space is so small as to endanger the health of the animals and their products.

25715. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—What is the standard?—In some cases about 600 cubic feet per cow. Our Department recommended about 500; but the conditions under which cattle are kept in the West of Ireland are often such that they have not above 200 cubic feet.

Feb. 19, 1907.

President J.
R. Campbell

Feb. 12, 1897.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

20616. How is that? That would be only about four and a-half feet cubed. A cow could not turn round in that space?—You cannot produce healthy cattle under these conditions, and you cannot produce healthy milk, and sooner or later you will be faced with the fact that the produce will not be allowed into the market.

20617. Could you give me the measurements you require in superficial area. You must have your cubic space on superficial area?—Two cows require seven feet wide to stand in.

20618. And seven feet for their length?—Yes. Then a space is required for manure. That adds another foot, and if the attendant is to get in behind the cows that requires another three or four feet. You cannot do with the present system of putting the animals in such narrow houses that the attendant has no room to walk behind them.

20619. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is quite clear 230 would not provide anything like that?—It would not.

20620. In Scotland the Congested Districts Board advanced £121 for houses for each?—With that we could do something, or even with less than that.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But then the dwellinghouses were two storied dwellinghouses.

20621. Sir ANSTONY MACDONNELL.—For all these things you would require about ten square feet and you would require the roof to be ten feet above the ground?—You would require about twelve feet by seven, and nine or ten feet in height.

20622. That would give 990 cubic feet?—For the two cows.

20623. That would be 420 cubic feet for each cow?—Yes. Here (producing leaflet) you have a description of a good system. We would, however, be satisfied with something less. I wish this leaflet to go as evidence. That is the specification which is adopted by those who go in for dairying on a big scale and whose premises have to pass the medical officer's inspection. But I would not ask that it should be so good as that. I would be satisfied with something less, provided the occupier had reasonable facilities to keep his milk clean and provided there was enough

cubic space and ventilation to keep his cows healthy, so that there would be no danger of increasing tubercular disease, the danger of which is now being advanced against Irish stock, though I myself believe that the Irish stock are very free from the disease. If, however, the cows are to be kept in small confined houses it will increase.

20624. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It would be very desirable if you could revise your estimate and make it a good deal less for these small holdings?—The specification in the leaflet is not put forward for adoption in the West. I only put it forward because when I was asked for figures I thought it well to show what a really good farmer puts up.

20625. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Do you propose that the whole place should be closed up and the end walls run up to gables?—Certainly.

20626. There will be the four walls on four sides?—Certainly.

20627. How is the ventilation to get in? Will there be windows?—Certainly.

20628. What I find from experience is that with a corrugated iron roof open at both ends and with no arrangement of windows but simply the pure air and light coming in through the arches of the end roofs, there is no foul atmosphere. I can quite see that in Scotland or England that would not do, owing to the climate, but certainly it is the best thing for the Irish climate. I put that before you?—You could not fatten bullocks under those conditions.

20629-30. I am talking about cows?—You won't have the best milk production under those conditions.

20631. Sir ANSTONY MACDONNELL.—That is a point we must carefully ask about in our local inquiries. It is a very interesting point. The Board of Works will make advances sufficient for the construction of farm buildings?—It is to be hoped so.

20632. Sir ANSTONY MACDONNELL.—Is not it in accordance with the rules that they should?—I cannot say.

The Commission adjourned.

FORTY-THIRD PUBLIC SITTING.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK A.M.,

At Winchester House, 21, St. James's Square, London, E.W.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; WALTER KAFANACH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary

Professor J. B. CAMPBELL further examined.

20533. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—Would you kindly continue from the point at which you left off last night? I should like, first of all, briefly to summarise a few of the points I tried to make last night in order to make my meaning perhaps a little clearer, because I think there was a good deal of misunderstanding on my part. The first was, the land on which it is proposed to create new holdings is well suited to a system of mixed farming for the production of roots, potatoes, grain, grass, and hay; it will pay the new occupier systematically to convert the products of his fields into articles for human consumption. Without suitable buildings tillage is impracticable, and the new occupier must and will remain a grafter. Many of his competitors in Great Britain are well equipped with buildings costing £30 a statute acre. The provisions for buildings now being made both by the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board are quite inadequate. If the farmer is to till a fair proportion of his land, then, instead of £1 per acre, which is about the sum now being given by the Estates Commissioners at least £4 an acre would be wanted, if it is spent by the farmer himself, under supervision. I state that because, obviously, a very much smaller sum would do if the plan adopted by the Estates Commissioners is followed than if the buildings are erected by contract, as they are in the cases I have given you where £10 an acre was spent.

20534-5. You drew a comparison between the capital necessary for buildings in Great Britain and in Ireland?—I did.

20536. Is there not a climatic difference between the condition of Ireland and of Great Britain that in fact makes it possible for cattle to remain out during the winter in Ireland, which is impossible in Great Britain?—Not if they are being fattened.

20537. But with regard to stock-rearing, as it is not a great advantage that Ireland possesses over Great Britain that cattle can remain out during the winter?—Yes; but my point is that the practice ought not to be followed in Ireland.

20538. That Ireland ought not to make use of the natural and climatic advantage she possesses in stock-rearing over England?—I say that it is expensive and risky to raise stores, and that the profits of the system are reaped by the British feeder, and that if these lands are broken up at all, and if the Irish farmer is to work them with profit, it is necessary that he should have buildings. If the present system of stock-rearing is to be continued I agree with you that the cattle in Ireland are better off in that respect than in England, or even in Scotland.

20539. Are we to understand, that in your view the policy of levelling up land suitable for tillage necessitates an outlay on buildings on each farm largely in excess of what is allowed for and estimated for now by both the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners?—Exactly. That is my position; and further, following from that, that it is impossible to have a real improvement in methods of agriculture unless there is an improvement in buildings, and I go on to point out that you do not require as much as in Great Britain, but that instead

of £30, which is the sum now allowed, they will require at least four times this amount, and that they will require, as I said yesterday, houses for their cattle, for their horses, and for their poultry and pigs, and a barn and some sort of store for their roots. It was pointed out to me yesterday that when I spoke of a store for roots it might be supposed that I meant that all the roots were to be taken into it. That was not quite what I meant, but that it is of importance to a tillage farmer that he should have a place in which he can put some roots, implements, turf, and artificial manure. That is what I meant by a store.

20540. Coming back for a moment to the question of the outlay upon buildings, for it is extremely important, do you then advise the Commissioners in making an estimate of the probable cost of striping land and dividing it up for the purpose of mixed farming and settling migrants upon it, that they should estimate as part of the cost about £150 for farm buildings?—I would not say that, because it depends upon the capital the farmer has. If the financial condition of some of the persons who are to get the farms, is inquired into you will find, as I have found myself, that some have got sufficient capital perhaps even to put up part of the buildings. Others again are entirely without capital. In some cases you would require as large a sum as you name. In other cases it might not be necessary.

20541. But upon that point, Professor, the scheme contemplates taking men who are very small holders and very poor from over-crowded districts and venturing them to thirty-acre farms elsewhere to be worked in the manner you describe. You do not wish the Commission to understand that you think these men have capital?—Well, I mean that if a man is to be settled by the Estates Commissioners they should not do so without giving him the means of working the farm if he has not got it.

20542. You consider that in calculating the cost the Estates Commissioners should set down £150 as the maximum amount necessary to be spent upon buildings on a thirty-acre farm?—No, but that at present he receives £30, and what I say is that he requires at least four times that.

20543. That is £120 for all buildings?—For all buildings on an entirely new holding.

20544. But the point I want to get at is what is to be taken by the Commissioners as the probable outlay on buildings in all cases. Are we to understand that you think the money should be ultimately recovered to the Government which had been unnecessarily expended by the Government on migrants who might have capital of their own?—Some of them might.

20545. Do you think they would?—It is the first duty of the body creating new occupiers to satisfy themselves, as I have satisfied myself in a few cases, that they have capital. I have satisfied myself that many of these have quite insufficient capital.

20546. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are you overlooking the fact that these migrants are to be paid for giving up their holdings in the congested districts, and that the tenant-right money or whatever they get for leaving their old holding is capital that would enable them to build?—But that might not be sufficient. My point

Feb 20, 1907.

Professor J. B. Campbell.

Feb. 20, 1907,
 Professor J.
 R. Campbell.

is that they should get it. If they have it that is all right, but it is the business of those who are conducting the matter to see that they have sufficient, because if they are left on the farm without buildings or working capital the last state of those men would be worse than the first.

20647. From whatever source it comes you say that £120 is the amount that the man should have?—Yes. I would like to take it at the exact figure of £120. I said offhand "four times as much as the £30," and I have since stuck to the "four times."

20648. Do you think he could do it with £120?—If the migrant is a good mason, and can do a lot of that work, certainly £120 would go a long way in putting up a house and office, otherwise it could not be done at all for that.

20649. Mr. KATRAMACH.—Because a labourer's cottage costs more than that?—Exactly.

20650. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—With reference to the comparatively small amount allowed for buildings by the Estates Commissioners, and to some extent by the Congested Districts Board, you are aware that both bodies are restrained in regard to the amount by the consideration that it is not advisable to make the annuity of the new purchaser too heavy for him?—Well, that depends on what exactly you mean by "too heavy." Take £12 as the annuity without buildings. Suppose he got £100 for buildings, that would be £3 dr. 6d. more that he would have to pay. Well, I am not at all sure that he would not find it very much easier to pay £12 5s. 6d. with buildings than to pay £12 without buildings.

20651. Do you consider that is reproductive expenditure?—Oh, yes.

20652. Are you aware that as a matter of fact the consideration to which I have referred has restrained both the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board in increasing the expenditure?—My point is, it is wise that they should be restrained in that way.

20653. You consider that it would not be wise?—Yes, if you expect these men are going to work the farms.

20654. You consider that with proper buildings on the holding it would be at least as good a security as the other way?—My opinion is that it would be better security with the buildings than without them.

20655. I wish to get your full meaning on that point. The Congested Districts Board has been, I think, in the habit of expending something like £120 or a little more on houses and out-houses?—About that, I think. Their out-houses, I think, cost £22 3s. 6d. That is entirely insufficient.

20656. That is not at all sufficient?—Not at all.

20657. But in view of the fact that the men who are migrated by the Congested Districts Board are chiefly of the class that, as Mr. Sutherland said, give up small holdings at a distance, and are to some extent paid tenant-right for them, may not the Board legitimately expect that they themselves would add to their houses?—They may build new houses, but they cannot bring their old houses with them. They must build new houses.

20658. But there is the price of tenant-right?—I think the price of tenant-right will be all too small. I may say that it will be too small for buildings and stock.

20659. Is not there a strong probability that men migrating from the poorer districts may have some pounds with them to add to the buildings?—It is possible. The Commissioners or Congested Districts Board may satisfy themselves as to that. I only refer to the principle.

20660. I understand it, and it is easily intelligible, but it seems to me that both the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board may have a reasonable expectation in many cases that the migrants will add to the buildings put up?—They may have a reasonable expectation. Well, in all the cases that I have investigated there were no reasonable grounds for such an expectation.

20661. Were those migrants pursuing their new avocations under the auspices of the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board?—Both.

20662. And you consider that they had no reasonable expectation?—Yes, and from what they told me,

if the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board expect that they would add to their buildings, it will certainly not be for some time.

20663. Where were the migrants of the Congested Districts Board whom you have seen?—The migrants of the Congested Districts Board whom I have seen are on the Dillon Estate. I state that £22 10s. for out-buildings is not adequate, and the cases that I have seen show that.

20664. Where are they exactly?—Beside Lough-glynn House.

20665. And you do not consider for the present they have got sufficient buildings or a reasonable expectation of adding to them?—No.

20666. And you think that more money ought to be provided to enable them to construct their out-houses?—Yes. And I would like to see it added to their annuity; one reason being that they are likely to get the money cheaper.

20667. I thought that probably you might have seen the French Estate settled by the Congested Districts Board?—Is that near Lough-glynn House?

20668. No, it is near Castlereagh?—I may have. I have seen a good deal of the work done at Castlereagh.

20669. Did you see the French Estate there?—I could not say it was the French Estate I saw.

20670. The reason I ask you is this, that on all sides we are told that the tenants on that estate after purchase have vastly improved in their settlements under the treatment which they have received from the Board?—That is to say, they have improved their buildings?

20671. Well, they have improved their cattle?—And their tillage?

20672. And their tillage?—Well, I am sorry to say that in the cases that I have seen the tillage has not been improved.

20673. At Lough-glynn?—At Lough-glynn.

20674. But that has been done only about a year?—Well, it is certainly two years since I saw it.

20675. Well, there was room for improvement?—And there was room for some tillage.

20676. I was coming to this. Do you not think that besides providing buildings for cattle you require to be sure that those people have agricultural implements and stock?—Oh, yes, I agree with that. On the French estate to which I called your attention there were loans for live stock to the people, and the consequence was that in a short time the loans were paid back and the people had become rich.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Kindly repeat your last sentence.

20677. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The loans were repaid to the last penny and the people had become comparatively rich. That rather bears out your statement that loans on reasonable terms for live stock are useful?—They are necessary.

20678. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—With regard to the very natural desire to keep down the purchase instalment do you think part of the payment of the purchase price of the land might be deferred in favour of an advance like that?—Oh, well it might. I really have not gone into that question. I am merely anxious to see that these men who are going into the holdings are able to make them a success.

20679. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You want to see them equipped almost from the start?—No, but give a fair chance. I want them to have the means of carrying on, and if they have no money what can they do. I have spoken about the Congested Districts Board's work and the smallness of the allowance for buildings. Now, turning to the Estates Commissioners, I know of a man who was given land, and I am quite certain that he will remain a labourer, having no money.

20680. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it not be best for the State to construct essential buildings, and encourage the farmers out of their own industry to provide some of the out-houses?—Well, if they got a good cow house they might defer about some other out-houses, but my point is, that if the Congested Districts Board put up a building on a farm at a cost of £22 10s. tillage is an impossibility. The house consists of four walls and an iron roof and there is no floor. It is only fit for pigs or swine.

20681. Is not that a great improvement on putting the animal into the dwellinghouse and having all under a single roof?—It is not for the cow. She would be far better in the house.

20562. Would you be prepared to place the cow in the dwellinghouse?—No, but she would be better off there if she could be kept clean.

20563. Why should not she be kept clean in that house?—There is no arrangement for it.

20564. Are you aware that such people as you have referred to at Loughgally will get loans from the Congested Districts Board for the purpose?—I am aware that they may get loans. I have no doubt of that. I know that they get loans for buying stock, but whether they get loans for buildings I am not aware; but my point is that, that the people are being put on 30-acre farms and they are getting an equipment with which it is impossible for them to succeed, and it is no use spending money in trying to make tillage farmers of them unless they get a fair chance. I do not ask for anything like what they have elsewhere. I do not ask for £10 an acre at all. I do ask for reasonable accommodation for them.

20565. Would not you consider experience better than any amount of theory in this matter?—It is experience I am going on.

20566. Wait now. I mean of the results with the class of people that are being treated; and if you find that the experience of the French estate to which I have called your attention, which now has lasted for ten or twelve years, is of a very encouraging kind, would you not consider that a system that had been successful in that way deserves to be accepted?—I did not state that it was on the French estate, but I am satisfied that it is part of the congested districts where, notwithstanding the great improvement that has been made, they cannot yet be described as tillage farmers. I should like to be shown that they are.

20567. Have you seen much of the congested districts?—I have not seen much of them. I have formed my conclusions from what I have seen of them.

20568. But you said there was a couple of cases, and they were only a couple of years in existence?—Well, those cases at any rate will never, in my time, be tillage farmers.

20569. I suppose under almost any scheme there would be a few people down there who would disapprove those who helped them?—Oh, yes.

20570. It would be really an interesting thing if a man of your knowledge were to ascertain how that experiment has worked out on the French estate, which has the longest duration of all?—There the house accommodation was suitable.

20571. There are those who say that a larger expenditure would have been fully justified, but the results of the expenditure made have been amply satisfactory?—May I ask were any of those tenants paid for improvements?

20572. The holdings were cleared and drained and the Board made roads, and for those works wages were paid?—To those tenants?

20573. Yes?—I am afraid that I cannot accept that as agricultural improvement.

Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—I think we are rather drifting into an argument on two sets of opinions.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How is that?

Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—In the sense that your lordship is quoting an opinion based on what you know and he does not know, and he is not giving an opinion of what he does know, but rather expressing an opinion on the basis of your opinion, and I think, if you will allow me to say so, that we are getting a little adrift.

20574. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I was anxious to know from Professor Campbell whether he considers that a better equipment of these new holdings would better the chances of the new occupiers?—Up to a certain point. There is a point at which it would be unwise to put up buildings, but certainly you must give them such a foundation as to enable them, out of the land, to reap the profit.

20575. And, therefore, I was anxious to know from the Professor whether he had seen the results of a rather larger expenditure?—And I gave you the only information I possessed. I must also state this, that the Department has overseers going over the ground, and the information supplied in their reports is not favourable from many of the districts. I must say that they are unfavourable, that is to say, that the new occupiers are not making the most of the land, as they might do if they had better buildings.

20576. You have fully called attention to it now, and don't you think the Commission, when they go through those districts, can see for themselves what the facts are?—Yes. I wish I was with them.

20567. I wish you were?—I was trying to summarise my view, and I want to emphasise the point. I have read the memorandum, I think, down to that point at which I showed that many of the persons with whom the Irish farmer would have to compete were equipped with buildings to the extent of £10 an acre; and then I went on to say that I did not think that if the same money was spent by the farmer himself it would go a great deal farther than if it was spent by a public department. Then, another point was that the new occupiers were in most cases unable to stock their new holdings or put up buildings, and they must therefore not only keep their land in grass, but let it to graziers. Whether the new occupiers go in for beef production or dairying, they require houses for cattle, for horses, for poultry, and for pigs, as well as a barn and what I call a store. And I state, without hesitation, that if the buildings that are provided by the Congested Districts Board were examined by sanitary authorities who were responsible for the supply of better and other products of the dairy they would not be permitted to send it to the market.

20568. Would not that be true of the dwellings all over Ireland?—All Ireland?

20569. Yes?—Well, not of all.

20570. A great deal?—Not of all; because in some cases there is scope for attempt at a floor at any rate.

20571. Did you notice in the poorer parts of Ireland the very wretched accommodation there is?—Unless all that is remedied we can never hope successfully to compete with others. Now that pretty well summarises the points which I was trying to make last evening. I think they are more clearly stated now.

20572. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—You opened with a reference about the time proposed to be taken for the purpose of the settlement of small tenants?—Yes.

20573. Now, let me ask you this: The Commission, in considering any such policy, must come to facts, and I presume you think that the first thing to do would be to ascertain the total area of non-residential grass or grazing farms. In talking of the new occupiers, I had in my mind the grass land that I have seen, which has been grass for many, many years, and on which there are no houses of any kind or description.

20574. But in order to get the net available area, would not the Commission have to deduct from that total area the land you refer to as not good enough for tillage? You said there was land now used for grazing which is not good enough for tillage?—Yes.

20575. So the Commission, to get at the total cost, would have to ascertain and deduct from that total area the land that is too bad for tillage, would they not?—No; I do not think so, because in the work that I have seen of the Estates Commissioners they have tried, and very successfully, to give each farmer a piece of good land and a piece of bad land, and I would not ask the farmer to till that bad land.

20576. But you would not, in stripping up land into thirty-acre farms for the purpose of mixed farming, include land too bad for tillage, would you?—Not very bad land.

20577. And a further deduction, as I understood you, would have to be made from the total area on account of the fattening land, for you said yesterday there could be a reservation of it?—If we were going in for beef—it is very important to qualify it—if we were going in for beef; but my studies of the agricultural outlook lead me to the belief that it would be much wiser to go in for something else, something that is more suited to our soil and climate, something that would not require such high technical skill as the production of beef.

20578. But in the present system, taking Ireland, and the methods pursued in Ireland at present, do I rightly understand you to say that fattening land ought to be kept as fattening land?—Yes; under a system of beef production I would not be in favour of breaking up the very grass land.

20579. Then, from the total area of grazing land for re-settlement generally, we deduct the amount of land not good enough for tillage, and we deduct the fattening land, and the balance would be what would be available to carry out the policy of redistribution, striping, etc.—Is that it?—Yes; but you might settle a man on a very poor land, and he might graze sheep on it. I do not say that the bad land should be abandoned altogether.

20580. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Asking out of

Feb 20, 1905.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

that, Professor, what is your view as to the reclaiming of bad land?—There is a lot of bad land in Ireland that may be reclaimed, principally by drainage, but it will not pay to spend much money on it in drainage.

20721. It can be tilled?—But that would not be productive, to till bad land.

20722. Even bog land?—I rather mean very thin land. I saw lately, on my visit to Castlemeath, land that is on very poor sand. There was a farmer that had some of it, which was the worst land on his farm, and he thought that he would try to till it, and I said he was very foolish to spend labour in doing so, when by tilling one-tenth of the quantity of good land he could get the same return. The further views of the Department on this question and that of tillage is dealt with in letter M, which the Department wish to give in as evidence.

20723. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—I want to ask you before you pass from this paragraph about tillage and financial results do you agree with Professor Babbie's?—I do not know.

20724. But would you give your adherence to this declaration of his that when a holding is large enough to give continuous employment to an able-bodied man and occasional employment to members of his family, its cultivation is sure to enable them to pay their way and live comfortably?—Well, that is not clear.

20725. He was a professor and you are a professor!—It wants something to make it quite clear.

20726. His declaration follows a balance sheet of the Glasnevin farm of 5½ acres. Is that going on still?—It is now a fruit farm entirely.

20727. Has it been converted from a model tillage farm or mixed farm to a fruit farm?—Yes.

20728. Can you tell me why this policy was changed?—Well, it was changed because it was wanted for fruit growing.

20729. Can you tell me when the change was made?—The change was made four years ago.

20730. By the Agricultural Department?—It was.

20731. And the farm that was established as an experimental and model farm for showing what could be done with tillage has been transferred from a tillage farm to a horticultural plot?—Yes, that is so, and it was done by my advice.

20732. According to the balance sheet of the farm produce in this book which on a review of the circumstances ends with the question which I have given, and shows that after deducting the rent of 22 an acre there was a net produce on that farm of 245 17s. 4d. ?—That is a 4-acre farm, is not it?

20733. 5½?—Well, there were buildings, but the land was a 4-acre over four acres.

20734. So now the Commission cannot examine this any further because the Department of Agriculture have swept away the farm and substituted a horticultural garden?—Yes.

20735. It was a mixed tillage farm. It was formerly worked and had been worked for years and years by the Government as a mixed tillage farm for the purpose of demonstration and experiment?—Yes, and in regard to that I may say this—I have been talking of the buildings that would be required for a 30-acre farm. The house attached to this 4-acre farm is so large as to be a fit residence for myself, and no person would propose to the Commissioners that such a residence should be given to a 30-acre farm, not to say to a 4-acre farm.

20736. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is not the point, Professor. Will you kindly explain why it was on your advice that the ground was changed from being a mixed agricultural holding into horticultural ground?—For the simple reason that I could not show students how they could possibly erect such a building on a 4-acre farm.

20737. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—That did not affect the working of the land upon it and showing how the land could be worked and ought to be worked?—Oh, yes.

20738. Why?—Because these buildings—the farm buildings attached to this land—are first-class buildings that passed the sanitary officer of Dublin. Moreover the farm supplied milk to Dublin at 16d. per gallon. This is no model for the West.

20739. But in the meantime you have not answered the question?—Well, my answer to the question is—

20740. Here is a farm left as a mixed tillage farm and what the Bishop asked and what I want to know is why you transferred the application of the land

from mixed tillage farming to horticultural purposes?—Because it was not a model for small farms.

20741. Because it was not a model?—It was not a model. I do not think any of the Commissioners would say that it was such.

20742. Do you mean to say that the method and the way the land was worked was not any guide to the small farmer?—In the West of Ireland, shall we say?

20743. Yes?—No; none whatever.

20744. Mr. KATZMAN.—In consequence of the price you got and the buildings?—Yes, the buildings were expensive and the price of milk high.

20745. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You did not require it for your purposes?—No, we did not require it, because the same system is shown there on a larger scale.

20746. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it used now?—For fruit farming, yes.

20747. For market purposes or for exhibition?—No; it is used for training men as horticulturists in connection with the County Committee schemes. It is on this farm that all the horticultural instructors were trained.

20748. So you have simply changed the experiment?—Changed the experiment to one that was going to yield us better results, something that would be indeed a model, because anyone can plant trees in the way they are planted there, but no one would carry on the same class of farming outside Dublin that is carried on there.

20749. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—And you think they would carry on fruit cultivation in the West of Ireland that they carry on there?—Well, if not in the West there are many parts in the South and North where they are doing it.

20750. Your objection to continuing it as a tillage farm, as it had been, was this, that it taught nothing to the Western farmer?—It taught nothing to the small farmer.

20751. And now you have changed it to horticulture, and can that be any benefit to small horticulturists in the West of Ireland?—It can if he goes in for fruit. Even the Western men are growing fruit; of course I do not expect to see large orchards planted there as they are being planted in other parts of Ireland. Now, the next point was the conversion of produce into articles of export. It is my opinion that they must be so converted. Now, I want the Commission to go into this question of stoves and feeding cattle because it is a fundamental question for the consideration of anyone who wants to farm land.

Although the raising of cattle for beef is the chief industry in Ireland, the trade as carried on at present is most unsatisfactory. The risk attending breeding owing to abortion and mishaps incidental to parturition, the risk of high death-rate attending calf-veiling as well as the loss to the land involved in the building up of carcasses and offal, all fall on the Irish farmer, and a high proportion of it on the western occupier. The profit, with the exception of that derived from the comparatively very small number of animals that are made prime fat in Ireland, goes to the cattle dealer in the east of Great Britain. There the store beast which has cost the Irish farmer so much to produce is purchased often at 4s. to 6s. per cwt. less than it is sold at when fattened. This difference is clear gain to the British and clear loss to the Irish farmer, and may amount to from £1 to £3 per beast. The value of the actual weight made by Irish bullocks in the British feeding yards on the average just pays for the food consumed. The Irish store is in the first instance a market for home grown roots, fodder and grain. The profit from fattening lies in the enhanced value which the purchased cake gives to the carcass and the difference between the store and fat price of the animal. I hope I make it clear that that is the basis on which the British farmer works, and set aside that the Irish or serves to him as a market for his home grown produce, set aside the profit which he derives from the enhanced value which the cake gives to the carcass, he has the difference between the store and fat price of the animal.

20752. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—The only point that I want to ask you about is this, why you emphasise the great cost of store beasts to the Irish farmer so much?—Yes.

20753. Now are you acquainted with the South-West of Ireland and the mountainous tracts where these stores are raised?—They are not all reared there.

20754. But where this business of rearing stores is carried on?—Would you kindly name a district.

20745. I will take my own country. I will take Kerry?—Well, I have been in the most of Kerry.

20746. I want to ask you why you take the cost of the stores sent to the Irish farmer as so much. I want to ask you are you aware that in very large mountain tracts of Ireland these store cattle from the time they are weaned live out on the mountains, without much cost practically or any outlay or labour or capital?—I would answer that question by taking another district and pointing out—

20747. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is an Irishman's way of answering a question?—It is Scotch too. I can take another case where the bull costs a good deal, and the service of the cow at least 10s.; where the calf is worth, shall we say, for veal, perhaps about 30s. Well, I may be wrong there—it is worth in the market anything from 20s. to 30s. when it is dropped. It is reared at a cost of perhaps 2s., and sold next spring at perhaps 25s. And that is not taking into account perhaps 10 per cent. of the animals that have aborted, which you know is a cause of great loss, and one or two which have died from ordinary causes, and two or three of the cows that have failed to breed. All that loss is to be added to the price of these calves. Persons who are rearing calves and have actually counted the cost can show that it does not pay, or at any rate that the rearing of young stores involves great risk.

20748. Perhaps I can shorten this. Do you know any Irish farm or mountain tract which will show all that?—No.

20749. Or are you speaking of the better parts of Ireland?—I am talking of a place where the land is not too bad; where they rear calves at great risk.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You have to take grazing land at some distance to rear them.

20750. Sir JAMES COLEMAN.—I do not qualify my view at all, but I see your point?—Then I say the trade in stores is unsatisfactory from another point of view. In parts of the east of Great Britain a few stores are raised as well as fattened. But these never attain to the age of many of the Irish stores; it would never pay the farmer to keep them so long. Instead, the young animals are so treated that they may be regarded as under the fattening process from date of birth until they are ready for the butcher. Growth and feeding proceed together, and the animal is sold fat at or under two years old. This is the "prime" beef which brings the top price. In Ireland the same ox lingers on the second-class grazing lands until two and a half or three years old, losing in the winter much of what it gains in summer, occupying ground which should produce, if not two animals in place of one, at least three in place of two. The grazing period and the fattening are not concurrent, but consecutive. To appreciate the loss involved in such delay, it must be remembered that more than two-thirds of the foods consumed by a fattening ox are required for maintenance, i.e., to keep up the heat and energy of the body. It is obvious, therefore, that when fattening and growth proceed simultaneously a great saving of food is effected. An inspection of the cattle in some of the classes at the Dublin fat stock show would almost lead one to suppose from the great size and age of the animals, that in Ireland the ox is a beast of burden, as he is in some countries, where, however, meat beef, as we know it in this country, is unknown.

20751. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But is not it the fact that a yearling takes longer to fatten than a two-year-old, and that it is more expensive too. It takes a deal of time fattening?—Yes, but where the fattening and rearing are concurrent an enormous saving is effected. I think you will see that there is an enormous waste. And I admit, with the Chairman, that the climate of Ireland has the advantage that they can lie out at a loss than they can in England, but they lie out at a loss to the Irish farmer. They are losing in winter what they gained in the summer.

20752. But my point is that it would take longer and be more expensive to feed a growing animal than it does an animal that has finished its growth?—Yes; but my point is that if you get the two processes finished in two years it would be far better. In fact that is the whole system, the principal aim at least, of successful beef-producers. They want to get as many animals through the stalls and fields in the year as possible. Nor is the fattening of cattle, so far as it is practised in Ireland, satisfactory; many of the animals exported as "fat" to Great Britain cannot be

properly described as such. They are in reality little better than forward stores, and many of them are brought by feeders and put into yards to be finished on the other side of the Channel. These questions very closely concern the Royal Commission. The small western occupier is engaged in breeding and rearing the young stores, which he sells to the graziers or dealers. With the land in grass, the production of such stock cannot pay him. If he produced roots, fodder and grain, and fattened or even partly fattened them it might. The second-class grazing lands, on which it is proposed to create new holdings, at present harbour the two or three year old ox. These lands are perfectly capable of growing roots and fodder for bringing the stores more quickly to maturity. Such lands, if partly tilled, while they would not carry so many cattle in summer, would carry far more in winter, and on an average of the two seasons, more than they do now under grass. If the work of disking up these grass lands was proceeded with at a rapid rate, and if the occupants of these new holdings at once began to till their land on an extensive scale, there would be some disposition of the store stock trade, and some inconvenience to a certain section of the agricultural community would cease. But the creating of these holdings must take time, and to put the lands under a rotation of crops must entail a delay of three or four years. No serious disposition of trade need, therefore, be feared. There will be ample time for the small occupier and those engaged in the store stock trade to accommodate themselves to the altered circumstances.

20753. Sir JAMES COLEMAN.—Then to summarize your view, you acknowledge that under present conditions any considerable appropriation of grass lands would dislocate the cattle trade in Ireland as it now exists?—It would if it were done at once.

20754. But you expect that, owing to the time it would take, the process would necessarily be so gradual that that dislocation would not be felt, because of the re-adaptation of farming to the new circumstances?—Yes. Then I do not require to detain the Commission with the whole of the next paragraph in my memorandum, but there are two very interesting tables to which I desire to direct attention, showing the amount and value of imported dead meat into the United Kingdom for the years 1885, 1895, and 1905. I do not know of any figures that could be put before you which have a more direct bearing on this important subject.

20755. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you quite correct in the opinion you expressed to us yesterday that there is a prospect of as good meat coming from the Argentine as could be produced in Meath or Kildare?—Most assuredly, but I had better qualify it by saying that there will always be some disadvantages from the fact that it will be killed. At present the Argentine forequarters are selling under 5d. per lb. I am not quite sure what the dep is now, but it is under the average of the price of Irish fat cattle. But I am going to show you directly that Canadian and United States fat cattle are selling at as good prices as Irish fat cattle, although they are not selling at as good a price as the young prime bullocks I was talking of as being reared by the best hillcock rears in Great Britain.

20756. At all events, the inferior kinds of Irish meat have a very poor chance as against importation?—A very poor chance, indeed—the outlook from that point of view is a most serious one.

20757. Sir JAMES COLEMAN.—But in all these questions as to the effect of Argentine and Canadian imports, you do not specially single out Ireland, do you? It will hit the whole of the United Kingdom, will it not?—Certainly.

20758. It is not purely an Irish question, but one which applies to the whole of the United Kingdom?—But it would hit Ireland specially, because Ireland does not produce the prime material. I have just shown you that the system of rearing cattle is very expensive. I have shown you that the animals called fat are not fat—or very few of them are.

20759. What you wish the Commission to understand is this—that it is a general question affecting the whole of the United Kingdom, but that it will hit Ireland hardest owing to the present conditions of Ireland in regard to the cattle trade?—Owing to the methods under which the cattle trade is being developed, and the poor prospects of improving them.

Feb. 20, 1907.
 Professor J.
 R. Campbell.

20750. Mr. KAYMAK.—It is not the quality of the cattle which is inferior, but the fattening process!—The quality of the cattle has been rapidly improving, but my point is that the animals sold from Ireland under the style "fat" are not fat. A great many of those sold as "fat" go into the yards to be properly fattened. Now, these tables show that the principal increase in foreign and Colonial supplies has been in meat. The competition in other agricultural produce has not been so severe. It is only the finest quality of home beef that has a chance of successfully competing with the enormous quantities of the second-class article now imported from the Argentine, and there is no immediate prospect of such an increase in tillage and such a rapid improvement in the methods of feeding cattle in this country as would warrant the hope that Irish farmers, and more particularly the newly-created occupiers, will be able to produce prime fat beef—at its best it would be of second quality. And it must be borne in mind that the quality of the Argentine beef is likely to undergo considerable improvement in the near future. In that country cattle-breeding is creating intense interest. Agents from the Argentine are sweeping this country of the best specimens in our pastured herds. The result of this extensive importation of high-class breeding stock will be a gradual improvement in the quality of the meat exported, so that in time, instead of competing with the Irish-dressed article, Argentine beef will gradually come to compete directly with prime Scottish beef itself.

20751. Mr. STURTELL.—Will there not always be the element of the difference of distance to nullify against the tendency to which you refer?—The chilling will always make some difference.

20752. And the distance which it is carried, too?—They can put it in so cheap that the distance does not seem to affect the question.

20753. There is a mighty difference in distance between Ireland and the Argentine?—Yes, but there is a mighty difference between the cost of producing the cattle in the two countries.

20754. What is the cause of that?—The cause of that is that in the Argentine there is an excellent soil and an excellent climate, and now they have got a system of growing horses, which is likely to revolutionise the whole trade there.

20755. And are there not also differences in the conditions of access to the raw materials—the Argentine farmer does not start with a burden of debt, does he?—Oh, no; I expect not. He may, but I expect he does not. But I do not quite see your point.

20756. It makes a difference in the way in which the trade can be carried on. If the Irish producer were in as favourable circumstances as the producer in the Argentine, the latter could never enter into competition with him. I admit, of course, the difference that the climate makes!—In other words, if the Irish farmer had as cheap land and as good land.

20757. Yes. The climate was, of course, a natural distinction!—In other words, if the Argentine was in Ireland.

20758. Sir JAMES COLSON.—If the Argentine was in Ireland, and Ireland in the Argentine, what would happen?—That I have not considered.

20759. Mr. STURTELL.—What has that to do with it? Is the difference in the conditions that makes the difference, is it not?—I am bound to say I do not quite catch the drift of the question.

20760. If the Irish producer had to pay as little for access to the land as the producer in the Argentine, could he not keep the latter permanently out of the market when you consider the distance?—If he had the same access to it?

20761. Yes. How is land held in the Argentine?—I am afraid I am not well up in the land tenure of that country.

20762. Sir JAMES COLSON.—Is the condition of the Argentine comparable with that of Ireland, having regard to the wonderful wealth of the soil and the climate of the Argentine? Can you compare them at all?—I do not think you can compare them.

20763. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Some of the most successful ranchers in the Argentine are Irishmen, are they not, who went out there?—Yes; that is so.

20764. Mr. STURTELL.—Why should they not be as successful in Ireland as they are there?—I am not prepared to say why, but the fact is they were not successful in Ireland, and they are in the Argentine.

20765. Sir JAMES COLSON.—Will you summarise your observations on this question?—I have only a very short paragraph about it. A great deal has been written about the danger to the cattle trade of this country from the free importation of Canadian cattle. It is not competition with Canadian cattle, whether alive or dead, that the home trade has to fear, but competition with meat from the Argentine. Whether Canadian cattle are admitted or not, Irish stores will be dear if beef is dear, and they will be cheap if beef is cheap. The chief point about the Canadian cattle question as often overlooked, viz., that in that country stock-owners have not only improved the quality of their stock, but since they were shut out of the store market in this country they have learned to fatten and finish their animals, and whereas in former days Canadian stores were sold in this country under 25s. per cwt.—indeed, some say as low as 18s.—the animals as now imported are sold at as good prices per cwt. as the average home-fatted cattle. In many parts of Canada farmers now find it necessary to mature their lands. When little value was placed on decayed manure they sent their stores to be fattened in Great Britain; now, however, it pays them better to consume their own corn with their own cattle in their own yards. In short, the Canadian farmer has learned what the Irish farmer has yet to learn, viz., that it pays better to export animals to sell as beef rather than to market them in such a condition as to command lower prices. Having learned the lesson we may rest assured the Canadian will profit by it. From that I deduce that there is not that danger from the Canadian cattle that many anticipate.

20766. Have you seen the Memorandum on the probable effect on the Irish cattle trade of the importations of Canadian stores which was handed in to the Commission by Mr. Commissioner Bailey?—No.

20767. At all events, you regard with more apprehension the effect on Ireland of the development of the Argentine cattle trade than you do the competition from Canada?—I do.

20768. Are you acquainted with Canada?—No.

20769. I only want to ask you this—whether you consider that it may be possible to do in Canada what it may not be possible to do in Ireland, for this reason—that the farms in Canada are all very big farms. The Government when disposing of land there fixes the minimum at 150 acres of prime land. Therefore a man with a climate and soil like that of Canada, and with 150 acres of land, can fatten, as you have pointed out, but can you draw from that an inference as to what a small holder of ten or twelve acres could possibly do in the West of Ireland?—I am not drawing inferences from that.

20770. You said just now, "In short, the Canadian farmer has learned what the Irish farmer has yet to learn, viz., that it pays better to export animals to sell as beef," and so on. But the Irish farmer who has a holding of ten or twelve acres is in a very different position from that of the small Canadian farmer with his 150 acres; therefore what is the use of the Irish farmer learning to do what, practically, the size of his holding hardly allows him to do?—But let us take a larger holding—let us take thirty acres of these grass lands. Now, if that farmer had capital and buildings there is nothing to prevent his fattening his animals. He wants capital and buildings, and, of course, skill. His roots are as good, if not better, than the roots of Great Britain, and his corn grows as good as those of Great Britain. What is there to prevent him doing what is done in Great Britain?

20771. If you take a thirty-acre plan with good land and every requirement, I agree, but I am talking of the general average occupier in Ireland, and I am suggesting that his conditions are such that he cannot do what the farmer in Canada does!—But my point is that a very great part of Ireland is capable of doing it.

20772. It is a question of the size of the holdings?—The size of the holdings, but still more the provision of buildings. The great bulk of the land is quite suitable.

20773. But taking the class of holdings large enough for the purpose, is it not a very small proportion of the whole number in Ireland?—But a very great number of new holdings are to be created, and we hope they will be large enough to enable the occupier to do so.

22784. But even then they will bear only a small proportion to the whole of Ireland. As compared with the whole, it will only be a small proportion even then!—The number of holdings.

22785. The number of holdings of thirty acres is small compared with the number of smaller holdings!—The same would apply to fifty acres, and it would apply to 100 acres.

22786. But take thirty acres and upwards. The majority of holdings in Ireland are below thirty!—But they are not going to be in future we hope.

22787. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You would de-seize your holdings to be so small and equipped as to meet this demand?—I certainly would.

22788. Did you see a paper by Dr. Kelly on this subject?—I did not, but I know Dr. Kelly's views fairly well, and I agree with those views. He has studied this question very closely. From all these considerations there is only one conclusion, viz., that the outlook for the store and half-fat cattle trade is extremely gloomy. The only hope in successful beef production lies in the breeding of animals of the highest quality, fattening them at home right on from birth, and disposing of them prime fat at two years or under. Fluctuations in prices, of course, there will be, and each slight rise will so raise the hopes of those who prefer the present easy-going system of grazing and dealing in stores that they will cling to it as long as possible. Then, I have something to say upon dairying, pig-feeding, and poultry-keeping. From a study of the statistics of the imports of food stuffs into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and the British Colonies it would appear that the outlook as regards the pressure of competition is less gloomy, with regard to dairying, pig-feeding, and poultry-keeping than cattle-raising. In recent years dairy farmers have undoubtedly held their own better than graziers and beef producers. Moreover, butter, pigs, eggs, and fowl are just the commodities specially suited to a country of small farmers. Compared with the raising of stores, these forms of farming respond more quickly to the industry and personal attention of the farmer and his family.

From no other style of farming is the income easier or the return quicker, which is a fact of great importance to the new occupiers in Ireland who cannot afford to wait long for a return for their money. A higher degree of technical skill is required to feed prime fat bullocks than to feed milking cows, pigs, or poultry. And again, the buildings required on a dairy farm are somewhat less expensive than those required for a high class system of fattening cattle. It is a significant fact that in Great Britain cattle feeding is confined mainly to the eastern counties, whereas it is in the western counties the climate of which most closely resembles that of Ireland, that the dairying industry is mainly practised. It is significant, too, that in the west of Great Britain the dairying industry is gradually replacing mixed farming and cattle feeding. In fact in many of the western counties of Great Britain where dairying is carried on, the produce of the land is nearly wholly devoted to the feeding of milk cows, and the farmers there no longer find it profitable to rear calves. They prefer to kill them off or dispose of them at a very small price soon after birth, a plan which enables them to keep a larger number of milk cows. The less profitable industry of rearing stores then leaves Ireland. The problem to them is a simple one. The cost of keeping one yearling and one two-year-old is as great as the cost of keeping a cow. But a cow yields them a better and far surer profit than two stores of the above age. If this system were adopted in Ireland the number of milk cows could be almost doubled. Cheese-making, which has been the most profitable of all classes of farming in recent years, requires too high a degree of technical skill to enable it to be quickly introduced into Ireland. For better, however, there is still a good opening. No country has a better soil and climate for better production than Ireland, and if calf-rearing should become even more unprofitable than it has been, there is an outlet for the separated milk in the feeding of pigs, than which there are few industries more profitable or better understood in Ireland. The value of eggs and poultry exported to Great Britain from Ireland in 1904 amounted to over two and three-quarter millions sterling, and this is a trade which is capable of great extension. The advantage of proximity to the market in this industry is specially

in favour of the Irish farmer, and the price of eggs is not falling.

22789. Mr. SPENCER.—Is that an increase over previous exports?—This is the first time since 1835 there has been any record kept, so I am quite unable to give you any comparison. The extension of dairying, pig-rearing, and poultry-keeping is not inconsistent with tillage farming. On the contrary, a considerable increase in the production of butter, bacon, eggs, and poultry can very fittingly accompany an extension of tillage. The decline in the area under tillage has been a direct cause of the decline in the number of pigs now kept in Ireland, and the lack of tillage constitutes a serious drawback to the extension of the bacon industry in the country. Some of the bacon curers have told me that they have been obliged to invest capital in other countries in bacon factories because they cannot get a sufficient number of pigs in Ireland, and one of the arguments used was the want of tillage and of cheap by-products for feeding pigs. To run up, then, there is only one way to meet competition, and that is the production of the best of everything. Some, beef, mutton, butter, pigs, eggs, and poultry are the commodities to which the new occupiers should turn their attention, and of these butter-making, pig-feeding, and poultry-keeping offer the best prospects. Accordingly, the adoption of a mixed system of farming under which the production of these could be enormously increased should be encouraged, and the new occupiers should be provided with holdings capable of enabling them to produce butter and pig and poultry products in much greater quantity.

22790. And this is exactly the traditional form of cultivation in Ireland—is that an advantage also?—A great advantage, because it is understood—understood in some districts, I should say.

22791. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You want to revert to it, and improve upon it?—Yes; the fact is, the art has been lost in some grazing districts.

22792. Mr. KAVANAGH.—In pursuance of that policy, have the Department any scheme for improving, or trying to improve, dairy cattle?—Yes.

22793. Your bull premium system is rather far from being so, but now you have changed your opinion, evidently?—Well, we have, of course, seen that the prospects for beef production are very poor, and we have adopted a scheme for the purpose of trying to evolve in Ireland a breed of cattle more adapted to the production of milk. Of course, I still think that, while we require to change our breed of cattle, to go in entirely for the breeding of good milk-producing cattle would be too risky. While, at the present time, the whole prospects of dairy production are better than those of beef production, it is impossible for any man to say what they will be in the future, and it is therefore desirable to have cattle which will be suitable for both purposes, and that indeed, we have in the cross-bred short-horn of Ireland.

22794. Is it not said that the milking properties of the cattle of Ireland are fast disappearing under the bull premium system—that is to say, that the bulls are all for fattening purposes—for beef. Is not that so?—I have heard that said, but let me say this. I heard that said in public three years after the bull premium system was introduced, and certainly a year or two before any of the produce could have been in milk. We have got a very large number of objections to meet, and strive as you will, I do not see what good it is, there will be objections raised to your scheme. That criticism has been passed, but it was at that time certainly without any justification. But I agree with you that the men who are buying these bulls do run a great risk of producing an animal that does not have as good milking qualities as would make it profitable for dairying. At the same time, I believe that if you were to transfer Scotch cattle to Ireland, and breed them there for a considerable time, you would find that their milking qualities would considerably improve in Ireland, and if you took Irish cattle to Great Britain you would find the reverse would be the result. I believe that the soil has very much to do with it.

22795. Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—I think you wish now to offer a few remarks on the question of economic holdings?—The questions just discussed have an important bearing on the size of the new holding. If the new occupiers are to remain graziers, as is likely to be often the case, a much larger area will be required to provide for them and their families than if they

Feb. 20, 1907.

Professor J. R. Campbell.

Feb. 28, 1907.
 President J.
 R. Campbell.

Will the whole or portion of their land. The Congested Districts Board regard any holding whose valuation is over £10 as economic. Since part of the valuation is doubtless in respect of the building, such holdings must be under twenty acres of second-class land. With this present standard of comfort the occupier might exist on such a holding, but if his standard of comfort is to be raised, as it undoubtedly should be raised, and if he is to be placed beyond danger of famine or distress in bad years, he will require something more than this. This question was dealt with in an article in the Department's Journal for December, 1903, page 197, as follows:—"A holding, to be economic, should enable a farmer to bring up his family in a spirit of independence, to supply them with a sufficient amount of plain wholesome food with serviceable clothing; to provide them with a fair general education; to apprentice one or more children to a business or trade; to find constant employment for himself and the son who is to succeed him, as well as to occupy profitably the spare time of other members of the family until they leave home; and, finally, to save enough to prevent his being, during old age, a burden on the son who succeeds him. To ensure this the system of farming should be somewhat elastic, so that the area under tillage may be extended or reduced, in accordance with the size and age of the family. The minimum size of a farm that will meet these conditions is to some extent determined by the two primary implements of tillage, viz., the spade and the plough. The spade can only be used economically on rich land under a system of intensive cultivation, that is, for fruit and vegetable growing, and other forms of market gardening; and as this style of farming is impossible in Ireland except in the neighbourhood of a few large cities and in certain favoured districts, Irish farmers generally must rest satisfied, under existing conditions, with a system which aims at the production of roots, potatoes, corn, hay, and grass, to be sold or converted into beef, mutton, pork, butter, eggs, and poultry. That is, they must use the plough and not the spade; and, as the efficient working of a plough necessitates the use of two horses, a holding, to be economic, should be of such a size as will keep three in work, viz., about fifty statute acres of average quality, exclusive of bog and land that cannot be cultivated or reclaimed. Two farmers, each keeping one horse, can of course co-operate, and thus provide the indispensable double yoke, unless resort be had to the even more unsatisfactory one-horse ploughs and one-horse cultivators. This might reduce the economic area to thirty statute acres, or even, if the land be of exceptional fertility and marvellous good, to twenty-five. That any smaller area could be economic under the extensive system would be extremely difficult to prove."

20794. Mr. JOHN CONNOR.—Then, do you take the view that the economic holding, roughly speaking, is a holding that cannot be worked by the spade?—Of that I am perfectly certain, unless it is under intense cultivation.

20795. And, therefore, you agree with what is practically the German standard. We have evidence that in the migration and improvement of certain districts in Germany that was the standard the Government apparently adopted as qualifying for a grant of Government assistance in order to settle a tenant on the land—that there should be a horse?—Yes.

20797. And you are clearly of that opinion?—I am absolutely clear on that point, and I go further, and say that on an economic holding the farmer cannot do with less. Of course the word "economic" is wrongly used by us; that is not the real meaning of the word "economic."

20798. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is lacking very much in clearness?—Yes. For example, a pair of horses on a thirty-acre holding would be very uneconomical, even supposing the holding supported the farmer. I am quite sure that the two-horse farm—the sort of farm I have been describing—is really the most economic. If the farmer employed labour it would be far better to have two-horse farms than to have one-horse farms. Still, I feel that one could calculate even these thirty acres, given buildings and capital, with some hope of success.

20799. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If there is a

horse on each farm, the horse difficulty is got over. To some extent got over.

20800. To a large extent?—To some extent.

20801. The more land we get for these holdings the better, but still, if a £10 valuation was the minimum, without going too closely into the proper definition of an economic holding, do you not think that things would be in a fairly satisfactory condition?—All the holdings?

20802. If £10 were the minimum valuation?—Quite so, if from that you graduated upwards. I do not say that a man would not be able to live on a £10 holding, but his standard of comfort would be very limited.

20803. The amount of land that one could get is limited?—It is limited, and of course if you wanted to settle a very large population you would have to be content with less land, but the fact must be borne in mind that the population is now very small.

20804. Would you not look to a bigger population under a system of tillage?—Certainly.

20805. For instance, the tillage that you have been describing would really give a lot of occupation to people who themselves live on miserable plots?—It would, and of course tillage would give occupation for the sons. As has been pointed out by other witnesses, it would be a mistake to adopt a uniform size of holding. Having regard to the present agricultural outlook an ideal arrangement would be to have a backbone of two-horse farms with a sprinkling of smaller ones to enable labourers and enterprising persons of small means to enter the farming class, together with here and there still larger farms in the hands of persons of capital and enterprise. The experience of other parts of the United Kingdom is that the presence of a few large farmers is often of great use to the agricultural community: the owners act as pioneers in agricultural development and set examples of good husbandry which the occupiers of the smaller holdings imitate. I am very clear as to that—that it is a very good way of providing education to have a few good enterprising farmers in each district.

20806. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Where would you get them from?—I think they could be got.

20807. Do you think it requires much science to lay land out in grass?—It does not.

20808. But is not that the occupation of the principal large holders in Ireland?—Yes.

20809. Is that a high standard of example?—There are some farmers who, if they had the land and the capital, would develop into very good farmers; at any rate they would be leading farmers so far as the smaller ones were concerned.

20810. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You would have different models set up before the farmers in the country?—Yes; my experience is that farmers, if they all work in the same style, and according to the same rules are slow at making improvement; very few of them have enough enterprise to start anything new, but if they see a large farmer going into it, they will imitate him.

20811. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Without impugning Irish agricultural methods in the slightest degree, is it not the case in Ireland that the larger the farm and the better the land, the less science is used in carrying it on?—That is not of universal application.

20812. But it is of large application?—It is of large application.

20813. Any one could be a farmer in that way?—Well, no, I could not say anything.

20814. I could do it myself even?—It is hard to make grazing pay, but certainly that is not farming—it is not agriculture. A word upon the question of the migratory labourer. The problem of the migratory labourer is as difficult as that of the economic holding. If the occupant of one of the new holdings is to spend part of his time in Great Britain he cannot obviously till his land properly, and accordingly the migratory labourer should not be given an economic holding. On the other hand, if he continues to work part of the time in Scotland and England and reside for the remainder of the year on his patch on the western seaboard his presence will be a continual source of weakness to the country. The British farmer and landowner doubtless are highly satisfied with the present arrangement. It enables them to avoid providing cottages for their labourers; they are relieved of the responsibility of

a labouring population; they have no compensation in putting their lands to grass and disposing with the labourer altogether; they are relieved from the presence of their labourers when they become old, infirm or sick. These, the ratepayers of the western counties have to support. Fortunately, the area under tillage in several parts of Great Britain, which the Irish migratory labourer frequents, is not diminishing, but should that occur, and should there be no more work for the Irish labourer there, his presence in the West of Ireland would then become very serious indeed. However important it may be that there should be a good population in the West of Ireland, the presence of a large number of migratory labourers, whose existence and freedom from distress depend largely on the state of tillage in Great Britain, may be a blessing, but it is certainly not an unneeded one. I certainly look forward with anything but hope to a condition of things in Ireland where you have a large migratory population who, having spent the best part of their time in Great Britain, return to find the potato crop has failed.

20355. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You look upon the migratory labourer as a great evil?—I regard him as a great source of weakness to the West of Ireland.

20356. Would the state of things not be much worse, taking the condition of the small holders in the West of Ireland, if there was no demand anywhere else for labour? Supposing the state of things so changed that the British farmer made no demand upon Irish labour, and assuming at the same time that there was no other place for Irish labour to go to, would not the condition of things in the West of Ireland be even worse than it is now?—It might become very serious, as it has become very often in the past.

20357. Taking the point of view of the possibility of the demand for the Irish migratory labourer falling off in England, do you recognise that the rise in the demand for Irish migratory labour may possibly be very great in Canada?—Yes, but Canada would not provide for them if that contingency arose.

20358. Why do you say so?—Canada would not provide for them unless it suited her to do so.

20359. My point is this: Assuming that the demand for Irish labour in the agricultural districts of Great Britain from various causes falls off, may we not reasonably expect that compensation may be found in the enormous development in Canada creating demand for migratory labour there?—The one does not follow the other in the least.

20360. I do not say it follows, but is it not the case now that there is a probability of tremendous demand for labour in Canada?—There is, for persons who go there to remain. There is as yet no great demand for the migratory labourer from Ireland.

20361. But is it not reasonable to suppose that there may be?—It is not.

20362. That is your opinion?—Yes. I do not think it follows.

20363. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You raise a very important question. From the Dublin estate a great many migratory labourers, as you know, go to England in each year, and also from the Donegal coast?—Yes.

20364. The safety of that system, as you have pointed out, depends largely on the permanence of agriculture in England?—Yes, and Scotland.

20365. And Scotland. Is there not the same chance of that permanence that there would be of the permanence of agriculture in Ireland under our proposed improved conditions?—I think it is quite likely that tillage will be as permanent in Great Britain as in Ireland.

20366. If that be so, it would be difficult for you to suggest a remedy depending on agriculture that would improve the present situation?—The present situation could be, to some extent, relieved by giving holdings to many of these men—it might be economic holdings—and giving them the means of working them and retaining in the country.

20367. That is one way?—That is one way of relieving it, yes.

20368. Yet again the permanence of agriculture would come in there, because if agriculture is not going to be permanent you are not providing any permanent remedy by giving them holdings?—But they would live better upon thirty acres, even supposing agriculture became worse, than upon their present holdings.

20369. Without going into too minute things, do you apprehend there is any danger of agriculture in England ceasing to be permanent?—Well, I do believe that from the present trend of agriculture in that country there is a great danger of the country going into dairying. Dairying is on the increase; it is replacing the mixed system of farming, and the trade is really casting all other businesses entirely; it is so profitable, and is increasing to such an extent, that I think there is a great danger of the fields in Great Britain going into grass.

20370. Do you think, then, that agriculture is likely to remain in Ireland when it disappears in Great Britain?—I mean tillage?—Yes, on the small holdings.

20371. You think, perhaps, that with a pretty general system of tillage prevalent in Ireland, employment might be found as labourers in Ireland for those men who now go to England as migratory labourers from the West of Ireland?—Oh, no, because if it did not pay the British farmer to employ the Irish labourer it would not pay the Irish farmer to do so. When I said that tillage would remain, I meant that it would remain because the farmer himself would till the best of his land, since it would pay him to do so even if he only produced what he could consume himself. Tilling the very small farmers in the West just now, they have been tilling their holdings to a large extent because they have been forced to do it to get more out of the land, and that is why I say that on very small holdings the farmers would be obliged to till the land.

20372. Undoubtedly what you say points to the fact that the best way in which tillage can be conducted on these very small holdings is by the farmer's family being engaged on the land, yet with the size of holdings that you have been describing to us, is it not probable that the farmer's own family would not be sufficient for the work, and that he would be obliged to have recourse to hired labourers?—On a 20-acre holding.

20373. How do you limit yourself?—On a large holding, yes, and I will go so far as to say that if the farmer had sufficient capital and holdings, it would with prices at their present level, pay even a 30-acre farmer to have a labourer.

20374. What I was leading up to was this; given the improved system of tillage which is contemplated throughout the country, would there be a prospect of the Irish farmer being able to employ the hand tillage hands who now go over to England for employment?—Yes, if the land is tilled; but the point I want to make is, that we must not imagine that by creating a number of economic holdings and leaving the migratory labourers on his uneconomic holding we shall escape from these periods of famine and distress that have been such a source of weakness and trouble to us in the past, and which we should all like very much to see ended.

20375. Mr. STURTELL.—You are influenced, I suppose, by some general consideration, such as that the farmer is always but resident on his holding?—Yes.

20376. You do not believe in non-resident tenants any more than in non-resident landlords?—Oh, no.

20377. On the other hand, I think there are advantages in the migration, are there not to the man himself—the travelled man?—To the man himself, but not to the farmer.

20378. The man who has travelled is as a rule a better-educated man, is he not, than the man who has not?—We do not find that in Ireland, to any extent.

20379. The migratory labourer does not gain anything then by contact with Scotchmen or Englishmen?—He does not seem to change.

20380. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There is a saying that those who travel much abroad rarely become holy.

20381. Mr. STURTELL.—The holdings you contemplate are so large that they would employ a man and his family all the year?—Yes.

20382. But look at the state of things which exists, under which the overwhelming majority of holdings are at present under that standard?—Yes.

20383. And of course any change in the way you indicate would be a slow one?—It would certainly be slow, but so long as the new operations are making for improved conditions we will be satisfied.

20384. But the new state of things is, I am afraid, a long distance ahead?—Yes, but we shall work up to it if we start on right lines.

Feb. 20, 1907.

Professor J. R. Campbell.

FA. 32, 1927.
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Professor J.
K. Campbell.

20645. A great deal of confusion has arisen, as I said before, from the way in which the word "economic" has been used?—That is so.

20646. You have different standards of economics in your mind from those of some of your questioners?—Very possibly.

20647. But you know that the original use of the word "economic" in political economy, as applied to these holdings was altogether in relation to meat—an economic holding was one in which there was no rent. Now that word has been adapted for other purposes, and some people use it as applying to the value of the holding to the tiller, but the original application of it was to a holding the tenant of which could not afford anything in rent, and all the produce of which had to be applied to the sustenance of himself and his family. Of course the conditions are changed now a great deal, and you think that an economic standard could be adopted which would have some relation to the scale of living?—To the standard of comfort.

20648. The standard of comfort, yes. And would not the standard of comfort be pitched higher and higher as time went on?—I hope so.

20649. And you had all that in mind in answering those questions?—Yes, and I think that the standard of cultivation would also rise—the intensity of cultivation would also rise.

20650. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—In giving your opinion that the migratory labourer is not improved by migration, I suppose you are aware that it is against the weight of the evidence which we have already received from various sources previously—representatives of local authorities, for instance?—I was not aware of it.

20651. Mr. STURGEON.—And from migratory labourers themselves, who are the best witnesses, after all?—But you have only seen a very, very small proportion of the migratory labourers.

20652. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—What proportion have you seen—how have you been brought in touch with migratory labourers?—I have been brought in touch with them in the West, and it is a question that has been very much discussed—why a man who goes to Great Britain and works on a very large farm—

20653. That is not my point; the point is whether the man who migrates, and goes to England or Scotland every year, is not improved in intelligence, and whether he is not the better for having had this change?—I beg your pardon. I see you are not referring to the question of cultivating the soil at all. I misunderstood you. Of course a man is improved in the way you speak of. My point was, when I answered Mr. Sturgeon's question, that they do not bring back the methods which are adopted in England. Of course they do not have the same buildings, and the same conditions generally in Ireland as in England.

20654. But is the soil better in England?—The soil is not always better. You must bear in mind that there is some very poor soil in England, too. Now, to return to the question of agricultural development on the new and enlarged holdings now being established. Many of these new holdings can be improved, and, with good management, made to support a family in a higher standard of comfort than now prevails in the West. In this sense, and this sense only, can a thirty-acre holding of fair land be described as economic. The holdings of half that size and under cannot certainly be improved so as to make them economic in any sense of the term if there is to be a decent standard of comfort. Now I should like to say that it is most regrettable that the Congested Districts Board have created so many new holdings that cannot be made economic. Of course, they have had great difficulties to contend with, and they have gradually improved on the original conditions, but many of these holders have not been placed in a position beyond the danger of their inability to meet their obligations or to remain on the land and not become migratory labourers.

20655. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Did you notice that the same thing holds for the Purchase Acts throughout the whole of Ireland?—I did not notice that.

20656. Throughout the whole of Ireland quite a number of uneconomic holdings have been sold to the complete?—But there have not been so many proportionally.

20657. Of course, the districts are poorer?—I understand the difficulties, but still the fact remains

that it cannot be satisfactory to the Board to have them. But to ensure success there is more than land wanted. Agriculturalists in the whole of the United Kingdom must face foreign competition, and the new occupiers have a still harder task before them, for they have to compete with improved systems of farming in other parts of the Kingdom. They must, accordingly, be equipped as well as their competitors, and for this there is required, in addition to the land, buildings, capital and education—including organisation.

20658. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—Now you come to the question of farm buildings, but as we spent so much time over that yesterday, we might pass that over, and go on to the question of capital, education, and organisation?—Yes; I have doubt already fully with the question of farm buildings. Assuming, then, that the land department creates the holdings and provides suitable buildings, the Department of Agriculture can, if supplied with sufficient funds, provide for the capital, education, and organisation (I mean working capital, apart from buildings), and attend to the improvement of stock. Progress, however, will be slow. Many of the new occupiers, having been reared on small farms, will have to be taught the use of the plough and other simple farm implements, as well as the advantages of suitable rotations of crops. On the new holdings an immediate expenditure on fencing, implements, seeds, and manures will be necessary. For this, working capital of about £8 per acre will be required. I should just like to say here, that when I put in that figure I am assuming a well-equipped farmer, but I would be satisfied to allow a farmer to go into a place with less than that.

20659. You say that on the new holdings "an immediate expenditure on fencing, implements, seeds and manures will be necessary"?—Yes.

20660. You include that in the £8 per acre. Is that in addition to the cost of buildings?—Yes, in addition. £10 an acre is the sum that is usually considered the proper amount of working capital. That figure is almost universally accepted.

20661. To cover everything?—To cover everything on a good tillage farm—for stock and implements.

20662. Do you mean that, given a thirty-acre farm, given the house, and the out-houses, and the necessary plant and buildings, the farmer ought to have in addition for that thirty-acre farm £240 capital?—What I say is this—that if his farm is brought to that state of perfection in which we expect to see it, he must have that.

20663. But in order to bring it to that perfection, how much would be required—that is my point!—Well, to bring it to that state, I would be satisfied to allow a new occupier to take up a thirty-acre holding with less than that.

20664. But would you make it a positive, necessary, qualifying condition that the migrant must show certain capital to be put into fencing, implements, seeds and manures?—Most assuredly. Why would you give a man land if he cannot work it?

20665. I am only asking your opinion?—Quite so.

20666. So that, in calculating the cost of any general scheme, in addition to any buildings and out-houses, you mean that, roughly, 24 an acre additional capital is to be found for or by the tenant, either by the Government lending it to him, or in some other way?—Yes, but I want to qualify that. As I said before, I would give it him if he had less than £8 an acre, but when he equips the farm to perfection, and gets proper implements and stock on it, the value would be £8 an acre.

20667. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But he could start with less?—He could start with less.

20668. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Much less?—Well, considerably less.

20669. £5 an acre?—Yes, I certainly would let him go in with that, but I would not give a man thirty acres of good grass land without at least that much capital to work it.

20670. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—But it is proposed to move poor people from the West to these 30-acre farms because of their poverty. They have got nothing. Where is the capital to come from?—Provision must be made for it. You are perfectly well aware that you cannot make money out of land without capital.

20671. Quite so. Therefore, I come back to this—that the Commission, in estimating the cost of moving

people possessing nothing from one district to another, in addition to the cost of buildings and all that, must allow for an expenditure of money to the extent of at least £5 an acre besides?—They will, I hope, make some recommendation to show how the money is to be provided. That the money must be got is perfectly certain.

20872. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Of course, they would have some stock from their old holdings?—Some would, but that, of course, would be included in the amount, and would be taken into consideration. I think one of the most serious parts of this question of creating holdings is to look at the character of the man who is to get the holding, to his ability to farm and to his means of raising capital, because, as I have already said, without it it is inconceivable that he could cultivate it successfully, and it would be very foolish policy to settle these men on land without giving them the means of going on. However, this would be a reproductive loan. I do not add this to the annuity. I would add the cost of buildings to it, because there would be the security of the buildings, and there would be the increased value of the holding, and some chance of the annuity being paid from the fact of the man being in a position to farm well; but so far as stock is concerned, I would not put the loan for that on to the annuity, but would devise some other means to meet the case.

20873. Sir JOHN CURRAN.—What I want to point out is this. You are specifying "fencing, implements, seeds, and manures," and you say that £8 per acre is required, and I take that to be for fencing, implements, seeds, and manures?—Perhaps it is not quite clear.

20874. Any man including stock, or have we to make a further addition to the capital necessary for stock?—In writing that what was in my mind was the necessity of meeting the expenditure which has to be made at once. The moment they get the land the very first thing they do is to put up fences. Then to buy stock.

20875. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—For stock you would require a large initial expenditure, but it would not be a continuing expenditure?—Quite so.

20876. Sir JOHN CURRAN.—Because as it stands, we would have to add capital for stock?—Certainly. My figure is supposed to cover everything but the buildings and the land.

20877. Your estimate of £8 is to cover everything except the buildings and land?—The £8 includes all stock, live and dead.

20878. Therefore the Commission, in considering the policy as practically applied, would estimate the cost of the land, the cost of the buildings, and add about £8 an acre for all the other capital necessary to give the man a fair start on the land?—Yes.

20879. That is, £240 on a thirty acre farm, plus the cost of the buildings and plus the cost of the land?—Quite so, land and buildings being in the annuity. And also, you will bear in mind, we let him in with a loan. I have met at least one man who has got a new holding, and who told me he had £250. I felt he was likely to make good use of it, and would get on with the £200, and I have met one or two others who frankly admitted that they had not got the money.

20880. Are you speaking of a man who is going to be transferred?—I am speaking of a man who had been transferred.

20881. Had he £200 at the time he was transferred?—He told me so.

20882. But do you think that a man with £200 capital ought, at the expense of the problem, to be transferred to another place, when in any other country he would have to help himself?—But he is going to pay for this help; he is going to pay his rent, or rather his annuity. He is not getting this help for nothing.

20883. Is he buying from the Estates Commissioners?—From the Estates Commissioners.

20884. He is buying?—Yes.

20885. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—This advance would be repayable in a number of years?—Yes; on easy interest.

20886. I suppose for this class of loan you would not extend the period as far, perhaps only twenty years?—Less. The Department has considerable experience of giving loans to farmers already, and our experience is they are anxious to pay them as soon as possible; and they always do pay them. In fact they would be inclined to pay them too soon.

20887. For live stock a period of five or six years would be ample?—I think they would be given more than that, but with the option of paying whenever able. An interview which a representative of the Department recently had with several of the new occupiers went to show that the majority of them require a loan of at least £50 to enable them to get stock for their land. Under existing arrangements the spare capital of many will all be required for the erection of a dwelling-house and temporary sheds for stock. In addition to lending money to agricultural bands the Department of Agriculture have a system of granting loans for the purchase of sires, and recently money has been lent for the erection of fencing. If, as will be described below, the country is mapped out and placed under the charge of overseers or instructors who will be well acquainted with the circumstances of the occupiers of holdings, the Department of Agriculture can easily extend this system of loans for the purchase of ordinary stock and implements, or other reproductive purposes outside the scope of the Rationing Bank. Otherwise the new occupier must stock his farm as his wealth increases, but in the meantime he has to meet his annuities and face competition. Without money money cannot be made. The definite proposal then which the Department of Agriculture desire to place before the Royal Commission is that a substantial sum should be provided which will be given in loans under the supervision of the Department's overseers or instructors, and which will be repaid by instalments at a low rate of interest.

20888. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you think that an educational department is a proper authority to deal with a matter like this?—We are more than an educational department.

20889. Is not there an authority already in Ireland for dealing with works?—That is for dealing with works, but not for stock. It is stock and implements.

20890. You don't mean the loan for buildings?—No, excluding that, I would be strongly in favour of putting that into the annuity, or as was suggested yesterday, they could get it from the Board of Works, but that does not make it any easier for the farmer. He has got to pay it all, and it is far better to consolidate the loan into one.

20891. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It is the cheapest money we have got, this money for the purchase of the land?—Yes. There is a great reluctance on the part of small occupiers to approach the Board of Works. There are a good many formalities to be observed which they don't appear to relish. What I refer to is loans for stock and implements. We are already lending money in that way. Also, as we have officers and instructors in these districts, these men would satisfy themselves that the applicants were really deserving and likely to pay the loan.

20892. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What you require is an eschequer of your own in Ireland—you want a good agricultural bank—a central bank?—Certainly. I should like to see part of the Department's endowment which it has saved used now for loans in this way. The sound of the requirements of the new holders which the Department can supply is education. By education it is to be understood not so much systematic technical instruction as practical instruction in the cultivation of the soil and the sowing and raising of crops, the breeding and feeding of stock, the use and purchase of implements, manures, seeds, and feeding stuffs, as well as many other forms of land improvement such as draining, liming, and fencing. In other countries this education has been provided by the philanthropic landowner setting an example on his home farm and rendering assistance in the improvement of stock by the introduction of high-class sires; by the example set by successful farmers who work their land on improved principles; and in later years by the agricultural press, and by systematic agricultural education mainly in the form of itinerant instruction, and field experiments and demonstrations. I am referring now to Great Britain.

20893. Where has this been done?—In Great Britain, in the South-West of Scotland within the last fifteen years.

20894. That is under the grant they get for technical instruction?—Yes; the whitely money.

20895. Still it is the case that in a large part of Scotland—I speak of Scotland because I know it better—the County Councils don't devote any money

Feb. 20, 1907.

Professor J. K. Campbell.

Feb. 26, 1907.
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Professor J.
E. Campbell.

to agriculture?—There are not very many of them which don't. One or two in the North may not have done so.

20896. They are like the County Councils in Ireland. The only object for which they exist is to keep down rates?—That is a very useful object.

20897. That is not what they are appointed for. They are appointed to do the public service at whatever expense I agree with you. In the West of Ireland the home farm and the large enterprising agriculturist are practically non-existent. They may therefore be centred as factors in the problem under consideration. Under the existing conditions the agricultural press cannot be expected to exercise much influence as an educational medium in these districts. The part played in other countries by the philanthropic landlord in the improvement of live stock as being exercised by the Department and the County Committees, and with more funds can be very much extended. For the incubation of the rules of good husbandry, however, the situation is one in which the itinerant instructor can play an important part. In other countries he has proved a success; without him it is difficult to see how progress can be made in the West of Ireland. But without organisation the work must be slow. The Department, even the itinerant instructor himself, cannot deal with individuals unless at great expense. The cost alone of providing an instructor who could make periodic visits to every farmer would be enormous and indeed unnecessary. The first and most essential work is the organising of the farmers into small societies. Let us assume a group of, say, twenty new holdings of thirty acres each. The first consideration of the occupiers will be the erection of a dwelling-house, and for this they require lime, cement, timber, slates, and house fixtures. The advantage of their combining together to procure these requisites is so obvious that it is unnecessary to dwell upon the point. Many of them, as in the crofting districts of Scotland, may wish their own hands to be able to build the walls of their own houses, but they will require a carpenter and a slater to finish the work. It is equally obvious that they can co-operate in the employment of such tradesmen more cheaply than if they do the work independently of each other. Each farmer, too, if he is going to till his land, will require the use of a plough, a set of harrows, a cultivator, drill plough, roller, turnip-sowing machine, and a variety of other implements. But it would be sheer waste of money for twenty of these occupiers each to provide himself with one of these implements. Twenty ploughs, twenty rollers, twenty sets of harrows are wholly unnecessary; one-fourth of this number would be sufficient, and the capital thereby saved is badly wanted to stock the land. So also if tillage is to be a success the farmer must have the use of a threshing mill as well as machinery for cleaning the grain. But a threshing mill is somewhat expensive, and it would be obviously waste of resources for each of these twenty farmers to provide this machinery for himself. Moreover, if they did so no single farmer could afford to provide the power to drive it. What is to prevent them jointly sharing the use of one good team, a threshing floor, and the necessary machinery? Nothing, if they be organised. Similarly with regard to the purchase of manures, feeding stuffs, seeds, and other requisites, money and time can be saved by co-operative purchase of all these necessities. The need for co-operation and its advantages have been fully recognised, but organisation must precede effective co-operation. To come now to the actual problem of agricultural development in the poorer western districts. At present the position stands thus. New machinery has been got into motion; the County Committees have taken these districts within the scope of their operations, and since the Congested Districts are scattered and intermingled by non-congested areas it is impossible to deal with them separately. The Department's definite proposal is therefore that the County Committees should not be disturbed in their work, but that on the contrary their funds should be greatly increased in order to enable the existing schemes to be considerably developed.

20898. Sir James O'Connell.—In point of fact is the suggestion this—that there should be no Congested Districts technically, and that the whole work as set up by the Congested Districts Board should cease, and that what are described in the Act as Congested Districts should be merged in the county and managed by

the Department in conjunction with the County Committees—is that so?—As regards the works of agricultural development, yes, but not the land work. I don't offer any opinion as to that.

20899. Not the purchase of land or promotion of industries, or anything else, but agricultural improvements?—I speak of agricultural improvements.

20900. Your observations are limited to that?—Yes.

20901. For that purpose you would have no artificial boundaries drawn by rateable valuations or anything else, as in the Act it would be all merged in the county?—Yes.

20902. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—These boundaries don't exist at present?—They don't for the Department's work, but still we have two bodies at work improving agriculture. We still have the Parish Committees.

20903. Very useful institutions?—Very probably. But still the Department and the County Committees are doing the same work, with very small sums, and of course they are not doing the same amount. The proposal is that a sum of about £30,000 per annum should be set-marked for expenditure in the backward districts, and in the administration of which the Department and the Agricultural Board should have the assistance and co-operation of a body of men having a special knowledge of the circumstances of the people to be benefited.

20904. Sir James O'Connell.—Who would define the backward districts?—The County Committees and the Department?—The Department are quite prepared to do so.

20905. Your proposal, as far as agriculture goes, would be to obliterate the technical distinction between the Congested Districts and the rest of the county?—Yes.

20906. And instead of that it would be discretionary with the committee to do special things for the backward districts, and for those backward districts you say that £30,000 a year is necessary?—Yes.

20907. I want to know what body would determine the backward districts to which this £30,000 a year should be applied?—I think you could very well leave it to the Department and these local gentlemen who would assist and co-operate with the Department. The objects with which the money should be spent comprise:—Agricultural stations, itinerant instruction, demonstration plots, change of seed, spraying, &c., agricultural education for girls, improvement of live stock, lending money for the purchase of stock and other farm requisites on easy terms of repayment, organisation.

20908. Is not that just the same as the rest of the county?—What is the difference between this scheme and the scheme carried on by the Department through the County Committee?—I don't see any difference. It is simply more detailed and more liberal treatment than is wanted.

20909. Am I right in understanding this—that the Department in carrying out its policy and programme as regards the improvement of agriculture will adhere exactly to that programme, but for backward districts will require more money to enable them to do it?—Yes, and there are certain schemes which would be required in these districts, and certain works, that would not be required in the better off parts of the counties.

20910. When you say the objects comprised, do you know what heads of these you mention are included in the general work of the Department through the County Committee in the county?—Yes.

20911. What are the special works you refer to?—I mean additional work. Take, for example, the question of the change of seed. We do nothing in the rest of the country with regard to the change of seed. The farmers are able to do it for themselves. But we know from past experience it is necessary to have some systematic method of changing the seed frequently in the West of Ireland. That would be one thing. Then the system of itinerant instruction which at present is carried on by nearly all the County Councils would be increased. We would increase our staff in these districts so as to give a great deal more instruction.

20912. This £30,000 really is wanted for more close supervision, a greater number of instructions, and in order to carry out the general policy of the Agricultural Department through the County Committee?—

More money for agricultural instruction and more money for—

20013. More money for the machinery to be applied to the backward districts?—More money to be applied to the backward districts. I have told you about agricultural stations. I just want to state I should like to see one of these agricultural stations in Donegal, one in Kerry, and perhaps one in North Connaught. I think I have already convinced the Commission of the advantages that such stations confer upon a district.

20014. Yes, you have. You have told us about instant instruction?—Yes. I show where I would propose to place these instructors.* When I say thirty, I take a round figure, but I should not like the Commission to take it that I say that thirty is ample. With a little more careful study of these districts it might be found necessary and desirable to have more than thirty. The duties of these instructors would differ from those of the county instructor in that practical education rather than technical would be their first object. The county instructor is more highly trained than would be the local instructor.

20015. Mr. KAVANAGH.—There are in addition to the county instructors?—Yes.

20016. Would not they overlap?—No, because the work of supervising these instructors would in all probability be under the head agricultural instructor. It is in that way we would get the best education to bear on these holdings. For this purpose the instructor should be provided with a dwellinghouse in the centre of his district, and to this residence there might be attached a few acres of land worked as demonstration farms, with a few inexpensive buildings for the temporary housing of bulls, hogs, asses and rams under the live stock schemes. Under the present system the selection of sites is, by the desire of the people themselves, very often left to the Department's officers. The farmer should be encouraged to exercise his own judgment in the selection of the site he proposes to use. If he cannot come to the principal agricultural station for his province he can at least visit the local agricultural station and make a selection from a few animals that can be placed there from time to time. In the event of these animals becoming disabled through accident or sickness when in the hands of the farmers, they could be housed at the local station and a very great deal of expenditure which is now incurred in raising such animals to Dublin, or even to Athenry, would be saved. It would be also the duty of the instructor to systematically visit the holdings in his district, to consult with and advise the occupiers as to the best means of laying out their farms, tilling their land, purchasing their seeds and manures, breeding and feeding their stock, and disposing of their produce. One of his chief duties would be to provide for the periodic introduction of fresh seed into his district, particularly of seed potatoes, irrespective of periodic disease or failure from blight. The supervision of the spraying of the potato crop would, of course, be an important part of his duties.

20017. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you state how it came to pass that so little spraying has been done during the last couple of years in Congested Districts?—Because we had no money provided for it. The money we had was devoted mainly to stock.

20018. It has been a great loss?—I am sure it is. I think we agreed yesterday that it was a great mistake that the work was abandoned. At the local stations could be kept a supply of spraying machines and spraying materials, as well as other machines and farm requisites that from their nature could be lent out. That is a system I would not like to encourage more than necessary where you have small allotment holders. Finally, the instructor would act as the eyes and ears of the Department, and as such exercise control and watch the expenditure of loans of money which have already been shown to be necessary if intensive agriculture is to be adopted to any extent in these districts. Some little time must necessarily elapse before such a service could be efficiently established. A commencement should be made in those districts where the land has already been transferred to the occupiers either by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners. In the first years there would be an unexpended balance of the annual grant. This would be used as a capital sum

to provide houses for the instructors, the buildings attached to the station, as well as equipment.

20019. Sir JAMES CLEGG.—You wish to tell us about agricultural education for girls?—Yes. What I want to emphasise is that the schools at Longhlynn and Westport are merely for demonstration purposes. We want to see a great number of these schools established in the densely populated districts. Then, as to the improvement of live stock, what we want is a much bigger fund to enable us to supply a sufficiency of sires. I have dealt with working capital, and may go on to the end. How would all this harmonise with the work now being carried on by the statutory bodies—the County Committees? If a public department other than the Department of Agriculture undertakes the work there must be overlapping, duplication, competition in the purchase of sires, and worse still, confusion owing to the concurrent operation of a number of different schemes—in fact a repetition of what took place when the Congested Districts Board, the Department, and the County Committee operated in the same areas. A similar conflict it may be added, must inevitably arise sooner or later with the farm petting schemes of the County Committees and the Parish Committee schemes of the Congested Districts Board. That is my view. If the work is to be done by the Department one set of inspectors will suffice for the county work and for the supplementary schemes; the difficulty presented by the question of raising a rate will disappear as well as difficulties which will arise if County Councils from the extended districts have the right as they had prior to 1904 of voting for or against schemes intended only for the non-congested districts. County Committees will interest themselves more and more in these supplementary schemes; already more than one Committee had expressed a desire to administer not only the funds contributed jointly by the Department and by the County Council but the supplementary funds which the Department are applying in the congested districts. There is no reason why, as time goes on, they should not do so, and as their interest in the work increases, and their machinery becomes perfected, they might even be allowed to undertake the administration of the whole of these supplementary funds if the country so desires. There remains one aspect of this problem and it is fitting that it should be brought before the Commission. Experience has shown that a few years of such work as has been described is not sufficient to establish the reforms that are necessary. Even on the very farms which have been used as models all improvements have often disappeared with the instructor. Even such an operation as the spraying of the potato crop which has been taught and demonstrated in almost every corner of the Congested Districts and which everyone is now satisfied is a necessary operation in the cultivation of this crop was neglected last year owing, as we were told, to the want of someone on the spot to stimulate the owners to activity and self-help. The lesson which this teaches is obvious, viz., that it is not sufficient to demonstrate improved methods to existing farmers; instruction in such methods must be continued until there has arisen a new generation who know not the old methods; in short, until such methods have become established and recognised as part of the routine of farm practice. The withdrawal of the grant by the Congested Districts Board in 1904 and the policy then decided upon by the Government and recorded in Mr. Wyndham's Minute of deferring the secondary work of education until the primary work of land settlement had been accomplished was far more disastrous than might, at first sight, appear. For many years the Congested Districts Board had laboured in these districts and one of their greatest achievements was the establishment of a machinery which, for several years prior to 1904, had been productive of good results. Owing to the lack of funds this machinery lay, in a great measure, gone out of action. And under any new scheme of agricultural development, much time, energy, and money must be expended before it is again properly set in motion. One of the objections to any restriction of the operations of County Committees in congested areas is the fact that these bodies have also spent much time, energy, and money in getting their machinery in working order, and all this would have to be sacrificed if barriers were again set up between the backward and the more prosperous districts. The requirements of the western districts are indeed numerous, but more than anything else there is wanted a definite policy with which nothing will be allowed to interfere, with

Feb. 20, 1907.

Professor J.
R. Campbell.

Feb. 20, 1907.
 Professor J.
 R. Campbell.

which no rival schemes will clash, and which will be consistently administered and adequately financed for at least a quarter of a century. The calculation of the cost of such a scheme as is here outlined needs more careful revision than has been found possible to bestow upon it. As a basis of discussion, however, the following estimate may be submitted without prejudice to any decision at which the Department and the Agri-

cultural Board, with the assistance of an advisory committee, may ultimately arrive. Then I set out the annual expenditure.*

20620. That would be for the consideration of the Commission, and we could ask afterwards for any further detailed information that we desired. You can read that in I-I hand that in as evidence.

Mr. GEORGE FLETCHER examined.

Mr. George
 Fletcher.

20621. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You are Assistant Secretary in respect of technical instruction to the Department of Agriculture?—Yes.

20622. You wish to refer to the restriction which arose under Section 12 of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act?—Yes. I ought to say that I have had an opportunity of seeing the evidence of my colleague, Professor Campbell, and I find, as regards a part of it, at all events, that he has covered very much the ground I proposed to deal with, and it would be wasting your time to do anything more than make a few references to it.

20623. Very good?—First of all, when we began our work, this restriction under Section 12 of the Act brought with it many difficulties. As you will see, we were precluded from working in congested areas. The County Committees were very anxious to extend their schemes to the congested areas, but we always had to put them off on the ground that we were unable because of this restriction of the Statute. It led to a good deal of friction, but we were not in any way responsible for that. A short amending Act was passed in 1903, by which congested areas in a congested county might be excluded from the rating. That gave little ease, however, because as a matter of fact the County Committees containing the congested areas were very anxious to extend the schemes to the congested areas. The real case came with Clause 35 of the Irish Land Act of 1903, which removed the restrictions that had prevented our working in congested areas. But with this extension of power there was no extension of funds. That is to say, all the money we had for technical instruction—£25,000 per annum—had already been allocated to the non-congested areas. Therefore, as the extension of our powers and responsibilities was not accompanied by any increase of funds it was rather embarrassing. There was a very great desire on the part of County Committees to extend the schemes to congested areas, and as soon as we were permitted by law we allowed them to do so. But, as a matter of fact, that involved our spending to some extent, at all events, in congested areas funds which had previously been allocated to non-congested areas. The amount was not large, but I should like to point out that the only money we have had is a special grant of £3,000 made by the Congested Districts Board for live stock, technical instruction, and agricultural instruction. That grant of £3,000, which I think has been referred to before, was made in respect of the congested portions of the congested counties. It was really a grant made of 25s. for every 21 acres by rate from congested counties. Nearly the whole of that sum, however, went to agricultural schemes—at all events, to schemes other than technical instruction. I believe technical instruction schemes other than agricultural have not received more than from £700 to £800. As a matter of fact, the amount expended on county schemes in congested areas amounted to £3,150, so that the difference between the total and the sum of £700 or £800 from the Congested Districts Board had to be made up by means which had been allocated to non-congested areas. The position I want to make is a perfectly clear one. It is that in extending our schemes in congested areas with the good will of everybody we really have not the funds for extending the work properly, and we are in the very unsatisfactory position of being compelled to restrict the work in the congested areas, though it is work that ought to be extended rather than restricted.

20624. Let me see if I thoroughly understand the difficulty created by the Act. There were certain funds granted for special purposes, including technical instruction?—That is so.

20625. And as the congested areas are not included within the purview of the operations of your Department the portion of the grant applied to technical in-

struction had been hypothecated to non-congested areas—is that it?—That is so.

20626. And when the congested areas were included in your operations you had already hypothecated the money available. Therefore, you had the power to work in those districts but no funds, by reason of the funds having been already appropriated for the non-congested areas. Is that the position?—Precisely. The sum of £25,000 granted for technical instruction under the Act of 1899 was intended for non-congested areas; the congested areas were specifically excluded from the operations of the Department.

20627. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Your arrangements were made for the year, I suppose, and the hypothecation to which Sir John refers was only for a year in advance?—That is so; but virtually it means a perpetual grant. Once you commence a scheme and set it in operation you must continue it. It is true the schemes are open to revision at the end of the year, but the money had been allocated, and it was being expended.

20628. Could you form a rough idea of the amount of money you would require as a subsidy to enable you to extend your operations to the congested areas in the same way as they are being carried out in non-congested areas?—I can, and have done so, but I should like to deal with it later, because I am going to suggest lines of development.

20629. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—When the Department could not expend its own money in congested areas did not the Congested Districts Board agree to back the local rate for your schemes with the same subsidy as the Department gave in non-congested areas?—A subsidy corresponding, I believe, to the arrangement that existed in the Agricultural Branch. They agreed to give a sum subsequently to be arranged with the Agricultural Branch. They gave an amount equal to 25s. for every pound raised by rate in these districts which could not be included. That amounted to £3,000, and it is a lump sum which the Congested Districts Board gave with the understanding that it would not be renewed.

20630. There was a difficulty about taking up all the schemes, and some of the money allocated was never expended?—It has been, I think, except in Leitrim.

20631. Not in the first year?—No; the expenditure was spread over several years. But notwithstanding that, as I say, a sum of, roughly speaking, £1,000 has had to be taken out of the fund for the non-congested areas. The position we have to face is that of expending funds originally intended for non-congested areas in working schemes in congested areas, and starving both. Already some 91 short courses of instruction in domestic economy, and 32 short courses in manual work, besides 27 industrial courses in crocheting, knitting, shirt-making, and such like subjects have been held by teachers under county schemes in congested areas. Much dissatisfaction, however, is caused by the fact that such work is not more fully developed, and that a larger number of districts cannot have the advantage of schemes. The schemes have extended quite automatically to the rural areas without any increase of staff or change of system, and they might be developed very considerably if funds were available. I have been rather surprised coming to estimate the amount of work done to find that so much work has been done in congested areas by the perfectly automatic extension of county schemes without any appreciable effort, certainly without the addition of a single clerk or a single inspector.

20632. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Has that automatic increase been effected by the County Committees?—Yes, in the schemes approved by the Department. In almost every case the scheme was identical with that for the non-congested areas, and in the case of an exception, that of Mayo, there was a separate scheme for the congested areas which quite closely resembled the other, and it was only a means for keeping

* See page 220.

the funds separate in that instance. There has always been the greatest harmony between the Department and the officers of the Congested Districts Board. I mention that because we have to work together in some areas, but wherever I have had need to consult the officers of that Board I have always been met in the most helpful manner. We have sought as far as possible to avoid any overlapping, but I am not sure that, with the best intentions in the world, we have always succeeded.

20033. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—Overlapping in regard to what I—I do not think we have altogether succeeded in avoiding overlapping of effort in the congested areas. We have there two bodies doing the same work—the Congested Districts Board and the Department—and although we have been in consultation it has been impossible to avoid overlapping. I will give two or three instances to show what I mean. Although both authorities have been aware of it, both the Board and the Department have been working in Galbreath in the Presentation Convent, the Board paying the salary of the teacher of crochet work, whereas our scheme of capitation grants has been in operation also. I understand the Board have withdrawn from it now. There is a similar case in Killybegh. There the Board were paying the salary of the teacher of one class, while other classes have been receiving capitation grants under the County Mayo scheme. Another instance arose in County Leitrim.

20034. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Do you mean that other classes in the same school were receiving capitation grants?—Yes.

20035. For different work?—That is very difficult to determine. In the case of one, the salary is paid by the Congested Districts Board, and in the case of the other capitation grants are obtainable under the County Mayo scheme.

20036. If they had all been financed under your scheme, would the teacher have been interchangeable?—There is nothing easier than for both those classes to work under one scheme.

20037. I know that; it would have been possible?—Quite.

20038. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What would have been the saving by the avoidance of overlapping in this case?—The class under the Congested Districts Board had to be inspected; ours also had to be inspected.

20039. Is that the only saving?—I am not sure that it is a good thing for two classes to be working in that way. Experience shows that it is rather undesirable.

20040. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—Is this overlapping of classes a thing of the past, or is it now going on?—It is now going on. In the places I have just mentioned it exists at the present time.

20041. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There are the only instances?—I regard them as illustrations showing the undesirability of two authorities doing the same kind of work in the same area.

20042. But there is a great deal of room for such effort in the congested areas, is there not?—Encore. I do not think we have done one-tenth of what we ought to do, and I feel that the work is injured by the fact that we are unable to develop the work, because we have no funds for it.

20043. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—I want to ask whether the Congested Districts Board do any work of a kind that you cannot do, and whether you do any work of a kind that the Congested Districts Board cannot do?—I think I should say "yes" to both questions. Presently I am going to describe precisely what we do in congested areas, but I think on their treatment of industrial classes they do work which we certainly are not doing. Also as far as industrial loans are concerned, such as the loans at Rathfriland and Foxford, that is work which we have not been doing. Then we have many opportunities which the Congested Districts Board have not in regard to other kinds of work. But if you will allow me, I will refer more fully to the point later.

20044. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I was anxious to ask whether you found that the Inspector of the Congested Districts Board was very anxious to keep away from your work and to avoid overlapping?—I have never found the slightest tendency on his part to overlap. If it were as I am bound to say I should accept such a step with pleasure, but, as a matter of fact, I have very frequently consulted Mr. Walker where both of us have been covering the same ground.

20045. And in districts partly congested and partly non-congested there has been a working arrangement?—Oh, yes; no real difficulty has arisen; there has been no real difference of opinion, as far as I know.

20046. If I am not anticipating you, may I ask whether the Congested Districts Board do not help the people by paying wages?—They do.

20047. For work done. Their workshop is their school?—Yes, but I should like to add, and so is ours.

20048. Do they pay wages?—Wages are paid. But, if you will permit me, I would like the question raised later on. I may mention a case in Leitrim where the Committee, feeling the desirability of extending the teaching of domestic economy to congested areas, and not having the means applied to the Congested Districts Board for aid. That Board agreed to pay the salary and travelling expenses of a teacher on condition that the apparatus purchased under the Department's scheme was made available. The Committee applied to the Department, and the Department acceded to the request—a most natural thing to do. Then you have the equipment purchased by one authority being used by a teacher appointed and employed by the other.

20049. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would not call that overlapping, it is rather co-ordination?—I do not mind by what name it is called, but I feel that either one body or the other ought to do it. There ought to be one responsible body, because any default in pushing the development of any such work may be attributed to the other body, and, if I may say so, there is no person to kick in the matter, which is unfortunate. So far from there being any opposition to the development of our schemes in congested areas to the highest point of efficiency and usefulness, we are compelled actually to restrict such development owing to want of funds. I may remind the Commission that £2,000 have been handed over to the Department by the Congested Districts Board in respect of the Department's agricultural schemes, but no grant has been made in respect of the technical instruction schemes.

20050. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—No assistance has been given by the Congested Districts Board?—None. That means that at the present time the money for the work we are doing in congested areas is being drawn from funds originally allocated to non-congested areas. Moreover, these funds have been found to be altogether too small for the purpose. We have been constantly applied to for additional funds, but we have none. The funds for technical instruction are definitely restricted. We have only the £35,000 a year, plus an amount I am about to refer to, from the annual Parliamentary grant. I pass now to our own schemes. There are the schemes which are extended to congested areas.

20051. Your own schemes for technical instruction?—Our own schemes for technical instruction are operative pretty well all over the country. You see, the Technical Instruction Branch works in two ways. First of all, a large amount of work is administered directly. The Department's source of income for technical instruction are two-fold. First, there is the sum of £35,000, which is called the endowment, under the Act, and the allocation of which rests with the Board of Technical Instruction.

20052. That is Imperial money?—That is Imperial money available for schemes of technical instruction which may be adopted by local authorities and approved by the Board of Technical Instruction. But there is a second source of income—namely, the Science and Art Grant, as it is commonly called. That will be made clear by a reference to Section 2 (1) (c) of the Act of 1899, which transfers to the Department the administration of the Science and Art Grant in Ireland. An understanding of what the Science and Art Grant is is necessary to understand exactly what we do. The grant was previously administered by the Department of Science and Art at South Kensington on a general scheme adopted for Great Britain and Ireland. When the Department first began its work the amount coming to Ireland in this way was under £5,000.

20053. A year?—A year. It caught on almost as a basis to have been very much more than Ireland had been receiving. The reason was that while this scheme was suitable enough for the large towns of Great Britain, it was quite unsuitable for the needs of Ireland. As soon as the Department inherited the duties and the functions of the Science and Art Department they set to work to draw up a scheme which would be suitable for Ireland. Their very first act was to draw up

Feb. 22, 1900.

Mr. George
Fletcher.

Feb. 20, 1907.

Mr. George
Fletcher.

a scheme concerning the teaching of experimental science in secondary schools. I am not going to refer to that at length, but it is so important a development in a branch of the Department's work that I think I ought to draw attention to it—the more so because the grant has been put up this year by over £20,000 for this work. The programme of work is set out in the volume which I have distributed. That (indicating) shows the scheme of experimental science, drawing, manual instruction, and domestic economy, in secondary schools. This problem was studied first, because it was felt that any real improvement in technical education would have to be founded on the work done in the primary and secondary schools. We had no powers as regards primary schools; in fact, the definition of technical instruction cut us out from them. We had power, however, for working in secondary schools, and this programme was drafted. The Intermediate Education Board worked with us to the extent of adopting it to replace their own syllabus of Natural Philosophy. At the time we began our work there were not more than half-a-dozen science laboratories in secondary schools in the whole of Ireland; now there are over 850. Practically every secondary school has followed this programme and is receiving grants, which are paid, not out of the Department's endowment, but out of the vote provided for in the annual estimates. This vote this year has been about £20,000. The Department helped by means of grants from the Treasury to equip these laboratories, and these grants were supplemented by the County Committees. I think that is all I need say about the work in the secondary schools. There are only three of these secondary schools in congested areas—three, or perhaps half-a-dozen, quite near, to which pupils from congested areas would go. Under this same scheme we have a system of Scholarships to which, perhaps, you will allow me to refer. The question of scholarships is important in connection with congested areas. Various county authorities have adopted Scholarship Schemes by which boys may, after a competitive examination, go from primary schools to approved secondary schools. By an "approved secondary school" we mean a school which takes up the Department's programme in experimental science and drawing. These Scholarships vary in value from £5 to £20 per annum, according to the distance the boys live from the school. Thus, if a boy lives within a radius of three miles of an approved secondary school, the Scholarship may be worth £5; if within a radius of seven miles it would be worth £10; if outside a radius of seven miles it would be worth £15. It is rather a novel method of awarding Scholarships, but it is, in my belief, which will be largely copied, because it adapts the payment for the Scholarship to the expenditure.

20653. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Did you say there are only three of these schools in congested areas?—Only three secondary schools; but the Scholarships may be held anywhere in Ireland.

20654. Where are these three schools situated?—At Kilmagh, in the Convent; Ballaghaderreen, the Diocesan College; and Dingle, the Christian Brothers' School. That is one noteworthy item in County Schemes—that in a great many cases they have Scholarship Schemes for boys.

20655. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You have nothing whatever to do with primary schools?—No.

20656. And for admission to the secondary schools, where secondary schools exist, there is an examination?—An examination for selecting scholars for the Scholarships.

20657. For the secondary schools?—Yes.

20658. That is what I mean. Is there any limit of age or any other condition, or is it simply a question of a testing examination?—They must be at least up to Standard VI. We have taken great care that we shall not overlap the National Board's work. It is really at the conclusion of the boy's primary course that we take him for the secondary school. I have the scheme here; shall I read it?

20659. You had better hand it in, I think?—Very good.

20660. Where these secondary schools exist is there much competition or anxiety on the part of parents or boys to get into them?—Into the secondary schools?

20661. Yes?—There is competition for the scholarships.

20662. Can you tell us what is the attendance at the three schools you mentioned?—These three schools have nothing to do with the schemes I have been

telling you about. Scholarships may be held in any school in Ireland. As a matter of fact children will frequently go into residence, and from great distances.

20663. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is it at these three schools that scientific education is given?—Any school in which a scholarship is held must be giving that education. I only draw attention to the fact that there are three of these schools in congested areas, but scholarships may be held at any school in the country that satisfies our conditions. The conditions are the teaching of our programme of science and drawing. We would not allow such scholarships to be held in a classical school. I would like to confine scholarships more and more to schools in which practical industrial work is taken, and in some cases they have been confined to a type of school of which there are only seven or eight in Ireland, known as "trade" preparatory schools, established by the Department.

20664. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—These examinations for scholarships are held all over Ireland?—Yes.

20665. What is the precise reason for having established these three secondary schools in particular districts?—They were there long before the Department started.

20666. You took them over?—No. Our only relation with those schools is that they teach the Department's programme, and we give grants. They can be accepted as approved schools for scholarships under the county scheme, those scholarships being for boys from the primary schools in competition with the secondary schools. It is a link between the primary school and the approved secondary school. The aim of the scholarship is to give the boy a further course of training which would fit him for an industrial career.

20667. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is this scheme in operation now?—Yes, for some years. There are something like 180 of these scholarships.

20668. Are there many schools in Ireland which come up to your standard for teaching?—Very few of these schools come up to an ideal standard, but a number of schools come up to the standard necessary for acceptance by us.

20669. Can you give me an idea of the number of schools in Ireland that would be capable of teaching your syllabus?—It is almost impossible to mention a school in Ireland which is not working under our programme.

20670. But you transfer them to secondary schools by the aid of a bursary or something like that?—It is in the secondary schools in Ireland that work under our programme.

20671. How many of them are there?—From 275 to 300, working with us in connection with the Department.

20672. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are these secondary schools the same schools as are at work under the Intermediate Board?—They are. There are a few schools that do not work under the Intermediate Board, but work under us, but they are very few, however, and you may say that almost every school that works under the Intermediate Board also works under our programme. The reason is not far to seek. We could have worked in schools without the co-operation of the Intermediate Board, because we have separate grants which I would say now amount to about £25,000 a year, supplementary to any money that was previously given in secondary schools, but we might then have worked only in a very few schools, such schools as might be willing to adopt the scheme. But at that time the Intermediate Board had a syllabus called natural philosophy, which was a text book variety of science of very little value. The Intermediate Board by resolution allowed our programme to replace their syllabus of science, drawing and domestic economy, accepting at once the Department's inspection and examination for these subjects. Hence it came about that the Department became responsible for teaching experimental science, drawing, manual instruction, and domestic economy in all the secondary schools in Ireland.

20673. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What astonishes me is the number of secondary schools in Ireland, where I was always taught to believe education was so backward. Do you know what is the general line drawn between primary and secondary education in Ireland?—In the first place I should be unwilling to admit any sort of connection between educational efficiency and the number of secondary schools. It is not quite right either to say we are not working in primary schools. I think you may divide the schools in Ireland into two classes, primary and secondary, and the primary

again into two classes, those under the National Board and those not under the National Board.

20074. Are there differences in efficiency in these two?—I am not qualified to tell you, because I don't know how they work the primary schools, but I want to tell you the origin of the difference. When the Board's rules were formed a class of schools refused to come under these regulations, namely, the Christian Brothers' Schools. We are now responsible for drawing in the Brothers' Primary Schools. We have no power in regard to the National Schools.

20075. Sir ARTHUR MACDONALD.—Does not it come to this, that if the system of secondary education in Ireland were thoroughly efficient it should comprehend as part of its curriculum the operations which you are now conducting in the secondary schools?—Certainly. There is very little doubt, and I never heard any serious criticism as to the efficiency and value of our work. For my own part, without endeavoring to affix praise to anyone, I can say this from my somewhat wide knowledge of secondary schools both in Great Britain and on the Continent, that we have now in Irish secondary schools as good a system of experimental science and drawing as exists anywhere in Europe.

20076. Such a statement as you now make would not be appropriate in regard to the secondary schools in Ireland before your operations commenced?—No.

20077. You have in point of fact applied the points in which secondary education in Ireland had been deficient?—No one has any doubt about that.

20078. I only want to understand that is the explanation?—The Department's programme has brought about this change. Prior to the establishment of the Department there was no laboratory work. It was all theoretical. Moreover, the number of candidates in this subject had sunk down almost to a disappearing quantity. The year before the Department took up the work the number of candidates all over Ireland had sunk to 600.

20079. Mr. STURTELL.—You have stopped natural philosophy?—Thank heaven, yes. We have got rid of that.

20080. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There were no funds for laboratories before the Department was established?—There were not.

20081. Mr. KATZBERG.—Not under the South Kensington grant?—For a period of time grants could be got for apparatus. It was a time when everything was wrong. There were no grants for the teaching of the subjects, and worst of all, there was no help or direction in the schools. For the whole of the work of the Science and Art Department in Ireland there was but one inspector, and there was nothing to push it. The moment had not arrived. The Intermediate Board had no connection with the work of the Science and Art Department. One reason why Ireland did not earn the money that might have come to her as her share, was that the regulations and syllabuses were wholly unsuited to our conditions. While there were one or two good schools, schools like the Christian Brothers' school and college in Cork, which were working under the regulations for the day schools of Science under South Kensington, and doing admirable work, as they have since they were transferred, yet speaking generally, the teaching of science and art under these regulations had sunk out of existence in Irish secondary schools. When we took this work over we laid down a number of conditions that were found very difficult to meet, but we gave facilities for overcoming the difficulties. They have been wholly overcome now. Schools had no laboratories. We refused to deal with any school, or to make grants in respect of teaching in any school in which there was not a properly-equipped laboratory, but we said, "We will give you grants to equip a laboratory, but you must build, and then we will give you a grant for equipment. We insist that the teachers teaching Science shall be properly qualified, and as you don't appear to have qualified teachers we will establish summer courses for them." That has been going on ever since. We laid down a number of hard conditions for the schools, and they have met them. Nothing could be finer than the attitude of the Irish secondary schools towards the work. The system has now been at work for five years and has brought about such excellent results that one can now point with some pride to Irish secondary schools in this respect.

20082. Sir JEAN CONNOR.—I understood you to say at the point where you stopped in and improved the secondary schools curriculum, the number for the whole of Ireland had fallen below 600?—That is the candidates for science.

20083. How long ago was that?—That would be in 1899.

20084. Can you give me an idea of the number now?—Over fourteen thousand are now following the Department's programme.

20085. Mr. STURTELL.—I don't think you altogether answered my question as to the distinction made between primary and secondary?—I did not.

20086. Where does it stop in one and begin in the other? Is there a clear and marked distinction between them?—As regards the vast bulk of the schools there is a very clear distinction between them. The primary school is a school working under the National Board of Education. The secondary schools are dealt with by an entirely different body.

20087. What is the principle that differentiates them? It cannot be the managers. It must be the nature and quality of the education given in each separately?—Yes. It is very much the same as here. It is very hard to draw a sharp line. The upper standards of a primary school might be properly said to be doing the work of the lower classes in a secondary school. I am not aware that anybody has ever tried seriously to make the line a rigid one. I think it would be impossible to do so. It would very often mean you take students away and cut them off from the upper standards of a primary school, and in that way remove them from school altogether, as they may think they are too near the end of their school life to change schools.

20088. Does the boy or girl pass from the primary to the secondary school by examination or otherwise, finally?—Not except in the case of our scholarships that I have mentioned. Very few go except from the Christian Brothers' schools. The reason it happens there is because the primary and secondary schools are very often in the same building. The Christian Brothers are not connected with the National Board. Very often they have in the one building two sections, a primary school section and a secondary school section, and the boys there pass quite naturally from the one to the other. That would be only true in some 25 or 30 schools.

20089. It is limited to the Christian Brothers?—It is practically limited to the Christian Brothers. All the other primary schools are under the National Board, except a few private ones.

20090. They have nothing to do with secondary education?—Yes.

20091. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The Christian Brothers have asked the problem of co-ordination between primary and secondary education?—They have. It is only right to say that a great change has taken place in recent years in the Christian Brothers' schools. Originally they were almost entirely primary in character and they have been led to connect themselves with the Intermediate Board and to work under it, and hence they have become in a great many cases secondary schools.

20092. They were originally established for the poor. Among the poor there are many brilliant boys. It naturally follows that the Brothers would strive to forward them in their educational career?—Yes. It is a perfectly natural development, and one that I would not like to take exception to.

20093. Mr. STURTELL.—It is rather misleading, because I know in England particularly what are called secondary and primary schools refer more to the social position of the children than to the training and instruction given to them?—That is not the distinction in Ireland.

20094. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—From the State the Christian Brothers have no grant for their primary education?—That is very newly correct, but not quite correct. They get no grants for primary education other than a very small grant from my Department for the teaching of drawing, that is in the primary schools of the Christian Brothers.

20095. I think the correction is a small one. Under the National Board they get no grants?—Nothing, and the amount they get under the Department is exceedingly small, and it is merely a heritage of a grant that was given by South Kensington.

20096. Is it given with a view to secondary education?—No.

Feb. 22, 1907.

Mr. George Fletcher.

No. 80, 1047.

Mr. George Fletcher.

20097. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You say the Christian Brothers' schools work under the Intermediate Board. Do they present their pupils for individual examination?—Yes.

20098. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You rigidly exclude Natural Philosophy?—We have no Natural Philosophy. I believe by insisting on the practical work being done and the students being taught to do the experiments themselves we have accomplished a very real reform in the teaching of science. It is now a thing of deep meaning to students. It is nothing apart from this as Natural Philosophy was. Here is the syllabus of the work (proceeds to read). Those experiments that are mentioned have to be performed by the students themselves. We have rigidly excluded examinations also. We no longer test our pupils any student by examination. The sole test is one of efficiency as determined by personal inspection.

20099. In the school which the pupils attend?—In the actual school. Our inspectors pay visits during the year. Then there is one special inspection.

20100. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—How does that system work in with the Intermediate Board system of personal examination?—Not too well, but far better than would have been the case had the Intermediate Board not handed over the examinations to us.

20101. They have handed over the examinations to you?—At the time they handed over this subject they invited us to conduct the examinations for the honours candidates.

20102. Are you an advocate of the abolition of that clause in the Intermediate Education Act which renders examination compulsory as a means of distributing grants?—I am fully of opinion that the examination system as a method of distributing public funds for education is a most vicious system.

20103. I quite agree with you?—Moreover, it is exceedingly damaging to education. I have no objection to examinations so long as the aims are educational. We must have examinations. They are most valuable but as a means of distributing public funds there is nothing to be said for them.

20104. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Of course you know the difficulty of dealing with it. You then proceed by patronage?—What difficulty?

20105. The difficulty of adjudicating on the best students; who is to select them?—So long as it is a question of picking the best students there is no objection to examinations. That is not the real reason we have examinations in Ireland. It is the scheme of the Intermediate Board that funds are distributed on the basis of written examinations.

20106. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It was the consequence of the old payment by results system?—Precisely. As a matter of fact, it was commonly adopted here. I think they have now broken away from it completely in England.

20107. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—If there was a minimum standard of efficiency fixed and you gave scholarships to everyone who reached that, there would be no difficulty, but if you have the applicants more numerous than the scholarships at your disposal you would have to select?—There is not the slightest objection to using examinations for the purpose of selecting boys or girls to enjoy scholarships. We do that ourselves, but for secondary education in Ireland the Intermediate Board's funds are distributed on the results of written examinations. The main purpose of the examination is to assess the value of the instruction so as to pay the schools.

20108. Of course, the examination ought to be always the same as the instruction given and in the same way. I cannot see how you could test a boy's efficiency in a laboratory by a written examination?—We do it by personal inspection.

20109. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your point is that the remuneration of the school should depend very much on inspection?—On inspection, rather than examination.

20110. It is different when you come to the individual boy?—Yes. Examinations have their proper place. It is only when an examination is used by the State as a means for assessing the payment to schools that great evil is done.

20111. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You are aware that grants are paid by the Government in England and Scotland very largely on that system. The Inspector reports on the efficiency of the school?—That is the whole point. Do I gather that you say in England

and Scotland grants are still paid on the result of written examinations?

20112. Yes; if the ordinary instruction is by written examination, this is the same way. But that is not the point I refer to. There is over and above that a capitation grant according to the report of the Inspector on certain general principles regarding the school, into which individual examination does not enter at all, discipline and so on?—I think you will find that that is really the method.

20113. Have you not that at all in Ireland?—That is our own principle.

20114. In the national schools?—In the national schools it is right to say this principle of payment by examination has been abolished. We were speaking about the Irish Intermediate schools, in which it still exists.

20115. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—A few years ago quite a change was introduced into the Intermediate system, but there was a difficulty afterwards about paying the inspectors to do the inspection.

20116. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I think not, my lord. I think the section of the Act required that the payments should be on the results of examination, and there has been an endeavour to change that, and inspectors were introduced for a time with the view of indicating the advantages of a change, but I don't think the change has ever been carried out?—And if I might add, I think the system of temporary inspectors has never justified inspection. We can pass from the position of the secondary schools in a consideration of the schemes of the Department, and I think in this connection one might best perhaps take the schemes operating in the congested areas to show their general character. First of all, however, you will allow me, perhaps, to say how these schemes are drawn up. In order to make the Commission acquainted with the parts of the Department's schemes applicable to congested areas I will take as examples of typical schemes those of three counties largely congested—Galway, Kerry, and Donegal. From these schemes it will be seen that some provision has been made for equipment in secondary schools for instruction in experimental science, drawing, manual work, and in girls' schools, domestic economy. And of this nature was, speaking generally, defrayed by grants made out of savings accumulated during the first years of the Department's existence, when the schemes were not in operation. A second important provision of these schemes is that provision is made for teaching home industries for girls, and under this section of the scheme a grant of 22 per student per session is made to a school or a class on account of every girl who is over fourteen years of age and who attends for 240 hours of instruction in some approved home industry, lace, crochet work, machine-knitting, shirt-making, or other approved subjects. It is a condition of the scheme that the teacher shall be recognized as qualified by the Department and the equipment and instruction are satisfactory; and there is also a condition that every worker shall at some time during the year receive as part of the 240 hours school work at least 40 hours instruction in domestic economy subjects. It is provided in this year's schemes that the grant shall be increased from £2 to £3 per head in respect of the first ten students. This modification was to secure more adequate assistance to small but meritorious classes. Special encouragement was given in drawing in connection with the instruction, as every hour in a drawing class up to the limit of thirty may be counted at three times the ordinary rate. Domestic economy instruction is provided as a rule by means of itinerant instructors, instructors appointed by the Committee. Much useful work is done under the scheme. The scheme provides alternative methods of encouraging home industries. In some cases the salaries of local teachers may be paid through the schemes. In others the Committee appoints selected instructors. These schemes, although a certain general principle is running through them all, are very elastic and adaptable to the needs of the various counties. A study of the schemes of the work in the various counties shows the very greatest divergence, and yet there are certain principles common to them all. If we take these schemes for Donegal, Galway, and Kerry, for example, you will find that, that the scheme in Donegal consists almost entirely of a scheme of itinerant teaching. They have eight itinerant teachers, two for spinning, four for crochet, one for dressmaking and needlework, and one for domestic economy.

Take Galway. We find eight teachers; four in domestic economy, one in hygiene and sick nursing, one for manual instruction, and two for croquet work. The scheme also makes a grant of £600 for Ballinasloe, an urban centre where there is a technical school, and also one of £250 for scholarships to boys. In the County Kerry they have two manual instructors, three domestic economy instructors, and they have allocated £90 for boys' scholarships, and 100 for technical classes for girls. When we began working in Ireland we had to take account of work already existing. There were already numbers of industrial classes in various parts of the country. It was our very earnest object to bring them into the work and to assist them by every means in our power. The schemes were drawn up in consultation with the County Committees. The County Committees at this time were Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Since then a change has taken place, and we have in some cases separate committees, a committee for agriculture and technical instruction, and in some cases we have what is known as a joint committee; that is where a County comprises urban districts, and the urban districts wish to work in concert with the County scheme; we have then a committee constituted under section 14 (2) of our Act, which lays down: Any two or more public bodies may, subject to the regulations of the Department, appoint a joint committee for any purpose authorised under the Act with such representation thereon of each public body as, subject to the provisions of the Act, may be agreed upon, or in case of dispute determined by the Department. It is such committees, in which urban centres elect representatives, and County Councils elect representatives, that form joint committees. There is a junction of technical instruction.

21017. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—We have such a committee in Donegal?—You have.

21018. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Your urban districts are represented on your County Council, are they not?—Yes.

21019. The County Council under the Local Government Act contains representatives of the various urban districts, does it not?—That is so, but this tends to secure proper representation on the Technical Instruction Committee. We were advised by the law officers that an urban district might not pay over its rate to a County Committee to administer any scheme of technical education. It became necessary if we wanted to ensure joint work that we should have another committee to which both the County Council and the Urban Council might send representatives.

21020. Inasmuch as the urban district is represented on the County Council, and the County Council form the committee, the urban district would be a party to the formation of this committee. It is a point which is outside your business, and I won't press it. At all events we found we were illegal in allowing urban authorities to pay over the rate to a County Committee to administer.

21021. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The rate is raised separately in the urban district?—Yes. However, I ought to say these joint committees work extremely well. We laid down in the schemes the number of representatives for each. Mayo has twenty-six, of which nine are members of the County Council, and seventeen added, and Kerry has forty-nine, of which thirty are councillors. The co-opted members are a very valuable element, as it is very obvious that most county councillors are not elected for educational purposes, and therefore it is very desirable that committees should have in their body gentlemen likely to give assistance.

21022. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—In the co-optation they are not limited to members of various committees?—No. The co-opted members are wholly outside members. In most cases they co-opt clergymen of various denominations. I think that has been done very freely. As a matter of fact these committees are very representative.

21023. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Perhaps it has been done too freely?—I cannot say that, because in education certainly we have got the very greatest assistance from them very often. I think it only right to remind Mr. Sutherland that Ireland is in a peculiar position in this matter; that up to the creation of the Department there was no such experience of education in Ireland as in England, where you had County Com-

mittees ten years before we had them in Ireland. The funds under the Local Taxation Act, the residue grant, was being administered in England by County Councils and committees, while in Ireland the money was not going for technical education at all. There were no such bodies in existence. Therefore, when we began our work soon after 1899 there was scarcely material of which to form committees for the administration of technical instruction. If they had not co-opted those who had had such experience, we should have been in an extremely bad way. As a matter of fact the efficiency of these committees has been steadily growing. At first it was not easy to work with the committees owing to their want of experience, combined with an extraordinary amount of enthusiasm, and there was very great difficulty in getting these schemes formed. I was at that time senior inspector, and I went down to almost every county, sometimes a number of times, persuading them to adopt schemes, and endeavouring to draw up schemes that would be acceptable to them and acceptable to the Board of Technical Instruction.

21024. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—It would not have been possible in certain localities to get any assistance of the kind you wanted if you had got the co-operation of the clergymen?—It would have been quite impossible, and afterwards the claims would not have succeeded.

21025. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—They co-opted the men who had most knowledge and were most representative, and could attend best?—As to that I ought to say that there are not two opinions in Ireland.

21026. And the absence of university education for the great bulk of the laity made it, I daresay, exceptionally difficult to get among the laity people who would be equally helpful with the clergy?—Yes.

21027. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Could the clergy not get in by the ordinary method as representatives of the people?—They are excluded by law.

21028. Why don't you clear the board and have one general organisation for education?—That is a big question.

21029. There seems to be no end of entanglement by the expedients resorted to from time to time?—That is so.

21030. Then you would not be troubled with co-optation or anything else?—It is certainly a very large question.

21031. I daresay you are influenced by the fact that you are dealing with the situation you have got before you?—We had to deal with the situation as we found it. Then the law prevented the election of these gentlemen on the local authorities. It therefore followed that we were co-opted by the local authority.

21032. But it would not have prevented them from being elected on an educational authority if you had one?—But you are dealing with a hypothetical state of things.

Sir JOHN COLSON.—We have only got to deal with the facts as they exist, and to judge the difficulties that arise under those facts. I think we are getting somewhat wide.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I think I am pointing out that the easiest way to get rid of all the difficulties would be by having a popularly elected educational authority.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—For each county.

21033-4. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—For each county, or each parish if you like?—We had to take things as they were. The County Committees co-opted outsiders freely. It meant that we got an amount of counsel and advice that we could not have got in any other way.

21035. Nothing is cheaper than counsel and advice to a man who is doing work. Were you not putting on those ladies men who could in no other way get there?—Yes, in the then state of the law.

21036. Or perhaps even if there was a popular election they would not get there?—I cannot say that. That is too hypothetical a case for me. If you ask me was it a purely representative institution I would point out that the people who co-opted them were themselves representatives.

21037. It is representation removed two degrees?—Yes.

21038. Why not remove that?—That is a very big question, and, as the Chairman has suggested, too wide for me to deal with. I was trying to show that the great difference in the various county schemes was due to the fact of our human method of proceeding, if

Feb. 22, 1907.

Mr. George Fisher.

Feb. 20, 1907.
Mr. George
Fielder.

our dealing with each county separately, advising them, studying their local needs, and then framing a scheme which we frankly admitted was tentative, and must be revised. All our county schemes are now subject to revision at the end of each year, though there are not any great changes for obvious reasons. I believe a vast amount of good work is being done. For the first year or two the whole of our money was not spent. Now, however, all the money is being spent by the county committees and they are very badly in want of more. I dealt very briefly with our method of treating industries, and I draw your attention particularly to the scheme before you for the technical schools for girls.* I would like to revert to the question that was asked as to the difference of treatment between the Department and the Board in the matter of rural industries. We take no responsibility for industries, although I believe I am right in saying the Congested Districts Board do that. They employ teachers. We allow the teachers to be employed. The Congested Districts Board pay wages. We allow and require that wages shall be paid. The position virtually is that. We are not directly responsible for any of these industries, but we have encouraged their establishment. We have said to the County Committee, "You may pay the salary of teachers; you may utilize the joint fund for that purpose." I need not explain the use of a joint fund. Under our County Committee schemes the Department makes contributions to supplement the contributions from the rates. Or we say, "You may have one county teacher whose services may be distributed over a number of centres." There is yet another method which is one of dealing with centres already having teachers. We had that state of things to contend with. There were quite a number of industrial classes, some of them in coverts, where teachers already existed, and it would have produced great friction and trouble had been a mistaken course to displace one teacher and to put another in. Now this scheme covers such a case, because what we do in pay for instruction so long as inspection shows it is efficient. We pay at the rate of so much per head, requiring a minimum attendance of 240 hours.

21039. Sir JOHN COTTELL.—The Department or the joint fund pays?—The joint fund pays. It is part of the county scheme. We pay at the rate of £3 per head for the first ten pupils, and £2 per head on the remainder. This scheme has been very much criticised. I have found nothing better. I am in search of something better if I can find it. One great advantage of it is this—and this is the thing that we have been most criticised for—we refuse to pay a capitation grant on account of any girl who does not also receive instruction in domestic economy as part of her work. We allow that instruction to be given by a county teacher, if there is a county teacher, but we require that every worker in a rural industry shall receive as part of her year's training instruction in domestic economy.

21040. I think we would like to have on the notes the reason that prompted that rule of combining country and domestic economy. You say in the second paragraph of the regulations that this special grant can only be claimable where the time given to drawing is in excess of the minimum 240 hours?—Yes.

21041. In section six you say it is to be taken as part of the 240 hours?—That is domestic economy. I

think you are confusing domestic economy with drawing. The 240 hours is the time given to the industry plus the domestic economy.

21042. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You are anxious to encourage drawing?—Yes; we give a supplementary grant for it if they take it outside the time required for the industry. Take a lace or crochet class. We pay £2 for every girl who gives 240 hours to it, but we also say "we are very anxious you should teach drawing as well, because drawing is very useful."

21043. Is not the foundation of technical instruction?—Yes. The maximum time for the industries and domestic economy is 240 hours, and the time given to drawing must be in excess of that. I was asked why we made domestic economy compulsory. So far as the individual girl is concerned these home industries are, we hope, transitional in character. Sooner or later, it is to be hoped, these girls will get married. Then, however expert they may be in making lace, that won't exactly cook a dinner. In view of the future position of these girls as managers of their own homes, surely it is most desirable that we should combine with the industry which is useful as adding to the family income, better teaching of domestic economy, which will enable them to reduce the expenditure.

21044. I suppose it has come under your observation that girls in factories who get 14s wages have a great inclination to give up domestic work altogether?—Yes; and I may say that if there has been a very great depression of domestic work and home work in recent years it is very largely due to the neglect of domestic economy in the education of girls. In the way I have described we secure that domestic economy is taught in all these classes. I ought to say that there has been very great progress made under this scheme. In that case I think you will perceive some amount of, I won't say speculation, but initiative on the part of the classes themselves. We don't take the responsibility and say, "If this is done we will pay the salary of your teachers," but we say, "If you start a class under a teacher approved of by us, and the required attendance is given, we will pay on the results of the teaching at such a rate." I only mention one case to illustrate the value of this system. At Malin Head, in the north of Donegal, a class was started a couple of years ago under the county scheme of technical instruction. A teacher of spinning was sent to this district, classes were organised, and now I am informed that the women there earn nearly £1,000 a year.

21045. I am sure it is very successful, and nothing can be better than combining domestic instruction with industrial and technical instruction?—I am glad to hear your lordship says so.

21046. Sir JOHN COTTELL.—You say "We." By "We" do you mean the Department or the committee?—I meant the Department. I meant this—our attitude towards the County Committees was, "If you like to put such things in your scheme we will approve of them."

21047. You say to the County Committee, "These are the conditions under which we will give you so much," and then it is for the County Committee to accept or not, and if they accept the programme they are bound by it, and you regulate your contributions accordingly?—You are quite right up to the point where you say we regulate our contributions accordingly; we do not alter our contributions in respect of a slight difference of opinion as to which is the best way of working a scheme.

* See page 225.

The Commission adjourned.

FORTY-FOURTH PUBLIC SITTING.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 1907.

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK A.M.,

At Winchester House, 21 St. James's Square, London, S.W.

Present: The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLSON, K.C.M.G. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. GEORGE FLETCHER further examined.

21048. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Will you kindly take up the thread of your evidence where you left off?—I should like to say a word or two about the scheme for training teachers. I shall confine what I have to say as far as possible to such training as relates to the work in congested districts. The Department has always considered the training of teachers as of supreme importance. The most important part of the Department's direct operations is the scheme for training teachers for its work in Ireland. I think I mentioned yesterday that the Department annually held summer courses in Dublin, Cork, Belfast, and other centres for the training of teachers. I mentioned that one of these courses deals with domestic economy and another with lace-making and crochet. The training of teachers to teach domestic economy is carried on for the most part in the Department's School in Dublin, the Irish Training School of Domestic Economy. That is found to be perfectly sufficient for the whole of Ireland at the present time as regards the teaching of domestic economy.

21049. Was that school established by the Department?—It was not established by the Department, but by a society many years ago, but it was taken over by the Department, and is conducted by the Department solely as a training school for the teaching of domestic economy.

21050. Is it entirely for that work?—Entirely.

21051. Is admission obtained by competitive examination?—There is a probation period of three weeks and then a training course which now spreads over two and a half years. The Department does not hold itself responsible for the student's obtaining employment, but there is a demand for them throughout the country.

21052. Is there any standard of qualification for pupils?—Yes; I should mention that there is an ordinary examination in the subjects set out here. It is approximately that of the middle grade Intermediate examination, and students who pass that and a personal examination are allowed to proceed.

21053. Is there a limit of age?—Yes. The lower limit of age is thirteen.

21054. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Has the controversy about Gaelic entered into this business at all?—No. One of the subjects taken up by the candidate may be Irish, French, or German.

21055. They have to read English and another language?—Yes. The other language may be either Irish, French, or German. Gaelic is particularly useful to them in the case of teachers in the western districts.

21056. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Which of those three do they usually take up?—Sometimes Irish, but more commonly French; I think; seldom German. We have been trying these last three or four years to improve and perfect the work of the School, and enormous progress has been made, but I do not think we have yet arrived at the end.

21057. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What is the accommodation for the girls?—We can manage between forty and fifty.

21058. What is the course?—At least two years—two and a half years. The students who have been trained in this way, work in the country, and from time to time we bring them to the summer courses.

21059. Is there anything in the way of Scholarships or Bursaries?—Yes; there is a certain number of open Scholarships, a number of limited Scholarships, that is Scholarships only covering tuition fees.

21060. What does it cost a girl to support herself in the College?—Well, I may say it is not residential; she must live outside. We very much desire it should be residential, but we have had to take the school building as it was. Unquestionably a residential school is an important point, and we were anxious indeed to make it a residential school, which would be better from a disciplinary point of view. The training can be much more thorough when the students are resident.

21061. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I should just like to ask you this question. The students having completed their course, the Department is not bound in any way to find them employment?—No.

21062. Then it merely means this, that the girls having qualified are eligible to be selected by any county with the approval of the Department for employment as teachers in that county?—Yes. They are recognised as qualified to teach and under various schemes of technical instruction salaries are paid to the teachers of £20 and upwards per annum and travelling expenses.

21063. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are the county authorities in Ireland bound to take them from that school?—No.

21064. So that they have no assurance of getting employment?—No.

21065. Sir JOHN COLSON.—We have had it in evidence that in the case of County Committees looking for teachers the Department used its influence to deter them from appointing a candidate from Great Britain or outside, because the idea of the Department was that they should rely on Irish people who would be themselves taught in institutions under the Department, and that these appointments should be kept for them?—Well, yes. As a matter of fact such an arrangement is wholly unnecessary. The local authorities in Ireland are keen enough on that matter. As a matter of fact, in the first few years, the supply of teachers from the schools was not equal to the demand for them. Local authorities did freely employ Scotch, and a few English teachers of domestic economy with great satisfaction to themselves. Now, however, we do not encourage teachers from outside Ireland. I think we should regard it as outside our functions to prevent the local authorities choosing.

21066. Is the number of pupils that passed and qualified sufficient to meet the demand now?—Quite.

21067. And that being so, I presume that the opportunities of employment of successful pupils are diminished?—We should have arrived at that period if the development of the School and its teaching were to stop now.

21068. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—How many teachers does the Department employ?—About sixty.

Feb. 21, 1907.

Mr. George
Fletcher.

21070. That is for the whole of Ireland?—Yes.

21071. Including the congested districts?—Yes.

21072. That would be only two per county?—Yes.

21073. You think that very large?—Not very large.

It is not sufficient to meet the needs. The courses of instruction were criticised by Mr. O'Connor Kelly on the ground that six weeks is too short a period to secure good results, and the reason they are so short is the pressing demand in various districts for the services of the teachers. As a matter of fact the work is entirely justifying itself in the gradual extension of it.

21074. The cost of employing additional instructors would fall upon the county, would it not?—It would.

21075. Would you make any subsidy towards their salary?—Not at a subsidy, but the Department's grant would need to be increased.

21076. From the limitation of their funds would the authorities not be restricted as to the number of teachers?—The instruction is already reached. I think I mentioned a case yesterday where the County Levistown actually desired an additional teacher. They could not afford one and had to apply to the Congested Districts Board. I am not aware that in any county the funds would enable them to appoint a single additional teacher. Any further funds I think must come from the central source.

21077. Have you been brought to consider the desirability of widening the basis of local taxation in any way, and making the county give a larger proportion?—Certainly, it has been considered, but probably the county would not be disposed to pay more than the penny.

21078. It is very reproductive?—Very reproductive, and both in the counties and urban districts in Ireland there has never been any hesitation to pay that penny. There is a very general feeling that it is money well spent. Now with regard to manual instruction, the Department hold periodical courses of training for teachers of manual instruction mainly for service in rural districts. These are about fifty such manual instruction teachers employed in Ireland, all engaged and paid by the local authorities.

21079. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Is it manual instruction for boys you are now speaking of?—For men. The problem was this, whether it would be better to take teachers and make them expert teachers of manual instruction, or take young skilled workmen and turn them into teachers. As a matter of fact, we adopted the latter alternative, securing by competitive examination, a number of young Irishmen who, in our view, might become good teachers of manual instruction. We have a course now in progress in Dublin, and these men, selected by competitive examination, are going through eight months' training. It was six months and it is now eight months.

21080. Where is the training carried on?—It is carried on under the Department in Kivrin-street Technical Schools, and these men are receiving a maintenance allowance during training, and at the end of that time if we do not qualify them they go back to their work.

21081. Mr. KAVANAGH.—At first there was a great dearth of manual instructors?—It is right to say that there was an absence of them, a scarcity of them.

21082. Is it better now?—Now we have fifty employed and it is still going on.

21083. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—But the objection to the introduction of teachers from Scotland and England would not hold good, would it, in such a case as that where the indigenous article is not forthcoming?—As a matter of fact it did hold, and never these men could very readily supplant teachers and the Department recognised them, and they made up for the deficiency of trained Irishmen for the work. And then these courses were established. We bring probably about seventy up to them.

21084. That is sufficient for the Department?—No; at the present time we have twenty students in training in Dublin. All these men go into the country and undertake work for the local authority, and they are brought back periodically to the summer courses to keep them up to the mark.

21085. And in the counties how do they give their instruction and to whom?—Under any scheme of itinerant technical instruction in Ireland under which domestic economy teachers and manual instructors are employed these teachers are the servants of the County Technical Committee. A circular is sent out by the secretary of the committee to the various centres asking them to fill up a form of application

if they desire the services of those teachers. It is at the beginning of the session, as far as possible, that the services of the teachers are allocated among the various centres, and the courses of instruction cover six weeks, but they may be extended to six months or to twelve months. These courses are sometimes held in a Courthouse, sometimes in a dwellinghouse, sometimes in a disused schoolhouse. In fact classes are held in all sorts of places, for the most part quite unsuitable. That is one of our most pressing difficulties. The course is spread and usually there are two sessions a day—a course held perhaps from 4 to 6, and another from 7 till 8. They are held daily. The first course is largely attended by the senior pupils from the neighbouring National School if they are over the age of fourteen. The second, or evening session is attended by adults who come in in very large numbers; in the case of the domestic economy classes farmers' wives and daughters, and in the case of the classes in manual instruction young farmers and artisans. In the case of teachers of lace and crochet these teachers are mainly derived from the best workers in existing classes, and the Department provide summer courses for the further instruction of those who are engaged in teaching. These courses are held in Dublin in the Metropolitan School of Art, and in Cork, and in both institutions the training of the teachers in these subjects is largely concerned with design. So far as the training of teachers in other industries is concerned the Department know no more practical way of securing it than by means of scholarships. Every year we give scholarships for the training of teachers of commercial work, and also for the training of workmen in various industries, and in the last three or four years we have sent scholars to the London School of Economics for training in commercial work, and we have also sent workmen to the Leeds University for training in weaving, etc., and to other places. But this does not at all meet the needs of the situation in regard to training, and the Department are very anxious to introduce courses somewhat similar to the Meisterkurse in Austria. Now, if you will allow me, I will pass on. The question of education—primary and technical—is a very important factor in the congested districts problem. I do not include secondary education, as there is so small a number of those who live in congested districts that could avail of it. I don't take that as a pressing problem. I do, however, think that the problem of technical instruction and the education given in primary schools in congested districts is very pressing indeed. I believe that the character of the instruction given in primary schools in rural districts is altogether wrong and that it is such as to lead the scholars away from the land, and that primary education generally is not brought sufficiently into relationship with the needs of the everyday life of those who live in rural districts. At the same time, I do not wish to be understood as objecting to any regulation of the National Education Commission or indeed of criticising anyone else engaged in education, because, as I think I shall be able to show, up to the present time it has scarcely been possible to do otherwise, but this I firmly believe, that the type of instruction in rural schools, which consists mainly of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and perhaps geography, ought to be amended, and I am about to suggest to you a means by which this type of education can be improved. The defect I have referred to is not peculiar to Ireland, and my remarks are almost equally true of England. What I argue for, and what I think would, in the course of time, effect great improvement in rural districts is the introduction into all schools of manual instruction for boys, domestic economy for girls, and something which for the want of a better name I would call rural economy for both boys and girls. Let me explain the function that each one of these three subjects would fulfil. Manual instruction involves instruction in the use of tools and their application to wood and to metal. Work of this character is of high educational value. It helps to fill an enormous gap, that gap in our primary education which comes from the absence of subjects involving the exercise and training of the executive powers of the child. I do not know how far you wish me to deal with this question of manual instruction. The question was raised on the examination of the Vice-President by Mr. Conner O'Kelly. Manual instruction has been introduced in the lower standards of a number of the primary schools of Ireland, but when it comes to that point where a boy should work

at a bench with tools you will find that there is no provision for such instruction. As I said yesterday, it is very desirable that it should be generally introduced. Why is it not introduced? Not, I believe, from any want of appreciation on the part of the educational authorities of the importance of it, but because in most of the rural districts of Ireland it would be impossible to teach it in the present school buildings and with the existing staff—in many cases a one-room school with a single teacher.

21085. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The introduction of that into the primary schools of Ireland as you have just pointed out would need an enlarged building, an additional room at all events?—Yes. Well, I am making a suggestion which I believe to be necessary from more than one point of view.

21086. You are coming to it?—I am coming to that. I ought to say that at the evening classes which are attended by young farmers and artisans the aim, while still educational, is made more utilitarian. I had intended to offer to this Commission a number of specimens of the work done in these evening itinerant classes, as a matter of fact I wrote down to Mayo, but found it impossible to bring over specimens of the work.

21087. Sir JOHN CORMON.—We shall see it when we go there?—It includes the making of gates, wheelbarrows, and such like. In some cases this instruction has led to the establishment of a distinct industry, but that is not its primary intention. The intention is to train young fellows, labourers and others, to do what would ordinarily remain undone; it is not an attempt to make a handy man in the sense in which that word is commonly understood; it supplants no workman, but it does create a handy man in the sense that it will give a man ability to make simple repairs of farm buildings, to hang a gate, to repair fences, and so forth.

21088. Sir JOHN CORMON.—Might it replace a carpenter?—It would not replace a carpenter, because these things now remain undone, and in many cases repairs on the spot could hardly be done by an ordinary workman, because it would mean a very long journey in some cases, and we know that things like that remain undone; but there is no earthly reason why these should not be performed by the farmer himself. One case I call to mind which, thanks to the instruction, has resulted in the formation of an actual industry. A manual instructor in the County Kilkenny found in his itinerant classes work done by some young carpenters which he regarded as of exceptional merit. He suggested a special course of instruction for them, and applied to this Committee, and the Committee applied to the Department to assist in arranging a summer course for these young men. A summer course was accordingly arranged in the town of Kilkenny. These men were brought up and paid a maintenance allowance, and followed a higher course of instruction in that period of five or six weeks. The work done was of extraordinary merit. The summer course was repeated a second year, and the men were brought up again. They were no longer carpenters. They had attained to great skill in the use of tools and a high artistic level in the execution of their work. It ended in the formation of a voluntary association, and that voluntary association, which is now called the Kilkenny Guild of Woodworkers, is traceable directly to these courses of manual instruction.

21089. Have the members of this guild devoted themselves to some speciality?—The production of artistic furniture.

21090. And are they in a commercial sense succeeding?—Yes.

21091. As a matter of business?—As a matter of business I mean.

21092. Without any further assistance from the Department?—They were taken up locally. They were assisted locally as a result of voluntary effort.

21093. When you say "take up locally," you do not mean to say by the local Committee, but by local associations?—No; there is no connection between this body and the local Committee.

21094. Has the guild or association exceeded commercially without any help or assistance from the Department, which originally discovered them?—That is so. With regard to the teaching of domestic economy, I will show you how we could

co-operate with the National Board in an extension of this teaching. Feb. 21, 1907.

21095. Do I understand you that your contention is that, that under the system of the National Board a great deal of primary teaching of a technical character is not done that might be done in the primary schools?—No; that is not my view. My view is that, that the course of instruction is not based on the scholars' needs, but the improvement that I wish to see cannot be effected except in some such way as I propose, and I propose to show how this improvement might be made. As a matter of fact, it has begun, and that was the result of negotiations between my Department and the National Board.

21096. When you use the words "cannot be done" do you mean through Departmental difficulties under the existing system, or do you mean that under no system could the primary schools do primary teaching unless they prepared for a further development of technical education?—It is not being done at the present time, owing to the difficulties of the circumstances of the work itself, which I am going to explain.

21097. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would you preface your explanation by first indicating what the circumstances are which prevent this being done?—The circumstances which prevent it stem of all sorts from the condition of the school buildings.

21098. That is number one?—Which prevents the teaching of either manual instruction or domestic economy, each of which would require special provision. The next is that the teachers in National schools are not at the present time qualified to teach these subjects.

21099. Mr. SCREEDMAN.—But could the National teacher in any sense be sufficiently trained to teach the pupils anything of practical value?—I am dealing with instruction in domestic economy and manual instruction in the higher standards of primary schools, and this should be done by specially qualified teachers. I do not believe it is possible for a teacher in other subjects to be trained up to do this subject as well.

21100. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That may mean an additional teacher for each National school?—I am going to suggest to you that I see a way out of the difficulty which I think would meet the whole case. Perhaps I may at once tell you what it is that I propose. My proposal for accomplishing this development is that in the lowest standard, simple instruction should be given in domestic economy and in manual instruction by the National teacher. Up to standard 5 let us say, the National teacher is the proper teacher to give this simple teaching in domestic economy and manual instruction. In the higher standards, Standard 6 and upwards, this instruction would be given in a properly equipped place, and by a duly qualified teacher. Now, the rural schools as I have explained cannot afford this equipment, and the teachers have not the special qualifications.

21101. Sir JOHN CORMON.—You mean for the higher standard?—For the higher standards.

21102. But you do not apply that to the simple instruction?—In a general way I feel that there is considerable improvement to be made in that respect, but that was not my point. My point is that in the higher standards, both for domestic economy and manual instruction, special teachers are required. Now, it cannot be done by the addition of a separate room to the existing school buildings, nor would it be possible to put an additional teacher into each school, but at the present time the Department are doing a good deal of this work out of its technical instruction fund, as I have explained, in itinerant courses. We have pupils coming from the National schools, but we laid down the rule generally that they must be over fourteen years of age, and the reason for that will be obvious from a consideration of the definition of technical instruction in our Act. This definition states that, "Technical instruction shall not include instruction given in elementary schools." That, therefore, practically precludes the spending of the Department's endowment in elementary education. Now, where these classes are held at present, I have said that scholars were allowed, if over fourteen years of age, to attend the classes, and we have met the difficulty in a very small measure in that way, and I think it would be perfectly easy to meet it far more completely. We have now itinerant teachers teaching domestic economy and manual instruction all over the

Mr. George Fletcher.

Feb. 27, 1901.
Mr. George
Fitzhen.

country. I have said that they teach in very unsuitable buildings. One of the great needs of the Department is to find accommodation for these classes in rural districts. At the present time the classes are being held in unsuitable quarters. I propose then, to provide, in districts where there may be a group of National schools within easy reach, a "rural training" centre, with a domestic economy room, a manual instruction room, and a class room. Such a "centre" need not cost more than about £200.

21104. Sir ANTOHY MACDONNELL.—From what area would it draw its students?—From a radius of about three miles.

21105. That is about the radius of the existing National schools, the radius of the area which they draw students from?—Yes.

21106. Why do you not add your room to the National school?—For several reasons. I propose that the centre should be within reach of a group of National schools, one session attended each week.

21107. That would involve the students going a much further distance to your centre?—Not necessarily.

21108. A group of National schools, and each school at a radius of three miles?—Well, the area might have a diameter of six miles. The children might have three miles to go.

21109. Sir JAMES CORMACK.—But at these rural training centres the pupils would be older than the limit of age for children to attend, because in the upper standards, 5, 6, or 7, such a centre as necessary from two points of view?—It is necessary for our classes. I think one of the most cogent criticisms that has been made upon our system of hincant instruction in both manual instruction and domestic economy is that the courses are too short and the effects therefore transient. It is desirable that such a centre should be brought permanently in contact with a number of schools. It is merely an extension of the existing system, and whether anything be done by the National Board or not, we must have these centres for technical work in rural districts for adult scholars. The teachers are there, and can be employed in the different schools. The want of funds alone prevents this extension of the system.

21110. Now, the building you require is a manual instruction room, a domestic economy room, and a class room, and the addition of that would serve the purpose very largely, and other classes which would be started, such as those run by the Agricultural branch. And what would be the nature of the buildings required—would they be of brick or stone with a slated roof, or do you mean a corrugated iron roof?—Oh, no.

21111. Sir ANTOHY MACDONNELL.—But the instruction is such that if the system of primary education were properly organised in Ireland it would naturally be taught in primary schools?—I think the difficulty of expense always arises in the small rural schools.

21112. I say that if you could have such a reorganisation of primary education in Ireland your work would naturally fall to the Department of Education?—Yes; but let me add that I don't think you could provide each rural school of this kind with instruction. I do not think that you could have a manual instruction room and a domestic economy room added on to every schoolhouse. Here too, you have the whole of the machinery. You have the trained teachers and you have the equipment, and it would be used by adult classes and the upper standards of the primary schools.

21113. Sir ANTOHY MACDONNELL.—And assuming that there was such an improvement in the National school as to permit the use of a room for your particular purpose, would you not be able then to supplement the teaching of the National school by yours?—Oh, yes, certainly.

21114. And in such a case the National school probably would take over the more elementary portion of your work, and you might specialise the more advanced?—Yes. The great gain from that central system I propose is that a special teacher could be sent to several National schools where provision existed for such teaching.

21115. Sir JAMES CORMACK.—Say there was a group of five National schools. Your proposal, as I understood it, would be to place a rural training centre at the most convenient point to draw the senior pupils from those four National schools. Is that your proposal?—That is so.

21116. Very well. And you propose to meet the requirements by a teacher living at a distance?—Yes.

21117. Well, now, supposing, as Sir Antony Macdonnell asked you, instead of that you had facilities in each of these four National schools, could not one teacher deal with the four schools as separate schools?—Oh, I think so; but the Department would still require its own centre.

21118. Its own particular centre?—Yes; I think so. As a matter of fact we do use National school buildings, but there is a disinclination on the part of adults to go back to a primary school.

21119. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you suggest this instruction taking place outside school hours or during school hours?—I suggest that it should be made an integral part of school work.

21120. Then you keep off so many from going to your present primary school in order to join your technical instruction?—No, pardon me, that is not the case. It is not technical instruction.

21121. Well, adult primary education?—It is an integral portion of primary education, and should be added on to all schools. It is not giving technical instruction. We feel that we ought not to introduce technical instruction into primary schools. Domestic economy is an element of general primary education for girls.

21122. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I am not very clear about that. You propose to give technical instruction in secondary schools and not in primary schools?—Yes, in secondary technical schools.

21123. If you were giving any of the technical instruction at all in the primary schools what is the necessity for any other, or what would be the nature of the technical instruction to be given in primary schools?—The point is this. If you are not going to teach domestic economy and manual instruction till the scholar has left the primary school you are going to leave it undone altogether so far as the great majority of these is concerned. It is a point well recognised that such instruction should begin in the primary schools, and the only way is to give it during school hours and make it a part of the ordinary course of work.

21124. Yes!—And my view is that this scheme should not begin below standard 5, but should carry on the instruction with the senior pupils.

21125. Then this manual instruction, which would begin at standard 5 would be afterwards carried on at the centre you propose?—Yes, after leaving school.

21126. So that you would have this power of giving general technical instruction in primary schools still after standard 5?—Well, its aim is somewhat different in the primary school and more educational than directly utilitarian.

21127. That is what I want to get at—what the reason is. What would be taught in the Fifth standard?—Well, they could begin with simple exercises in the use of tools as applied to wood. Perhaps you would be as good as to turn to the programme.

21128. But what useful instruction could be given to children at that age in the strength of materials?—Not in the strength of materials, but in the use of tools and in drawing. That is part of the manual instruction work.

21129. Then writing would be part of the manual instruction work?—Yes, if you will.

21130. So then the difficulty is to draw the line between what is manual instruction and what is not. It seems to me that you are claiming as manual instruction a great number of things I never heard of claimed as manual instruction before?—No; it is commonly recognised. I do not think that there is a single school where manual instruction is not accompanied by instruction in applied drawing.

21131. That is done at all the primary schools, isn't it—drawing?—I am now speaking of drawing in connection with manual work, such as the drawing of plans and elevations from the models themselves.

21132. Sir ANTOHY MACDONNELL.—I understand that there are seven standards in Irish National schools—from one to seven?—Yes.

21133. You would increase at the fifth standard?—Not lower, certainly.

21134. Am I to understand that what you mean is that boys when they pass the fifth standard and the sixth and seventh standards would be practically transferred to these central schools which you propose to establish?—I do not mean that. I mean that a class should be held, we will say two hours in the morning, according to convenience, one day in the

week, and that such pupils should take their lesson in manual instruction or domestic economy at that centre.

21135. Then it would be supplementary to the instruction in the National schools?—Quite so.

21136. And that for convenience of instruction, and also for other reasons, you propose to draw not the whole of the students of the National school into this centre but only the students in the higher classes, and you would provide them with a suitable room in which to work, and suitable appliances. You congregate your school together at the centre and deliver your lectures and give instruction?—Quite so. It is very important to recognize that if you build and equip an additional room at a rural schoolhouse it will only be used for a very limited period of each week. That is the great advantage of your centre, which is employed the whole week. It would be very expensive to equip a room at a small rural school.

21137. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Taking the same illustration as before about National schools, and applying that, you deal with technical instruction as a part of the curriculum of each school. You want four additional rooms, that is, an additional room to each of the four schools, but your proposal would be that one should serve all four?—That is my idea exactly; there is economy in adopting it, and also certain other advantages.

21138. Have you any experience as to whether technical instruction in its nature is popular and attractive to young children?—Well, I can answer without the slightest hesitation that it is most popular and most attractive, and I hardly know a hostile critic of this work. It is exceedingly popular amongst scholars for this very simple reason. It will be admitted, I suppose, that it is wasteful if not harmful to attempt to teach a child unless the child is intellectually ready to be taught. The predominance of book subjects produces a brain-weakness in the young child such that he retains little that is told him, and the introduction of a subject which will keep his senses and muscles alert proves a god-send to the child. Parents are very anxious to get such education for their children, but there have been difficulties in the way hitherto.

21139. That being so, and taking your proposal of such a system as you suggest, that such a rural training centre should be established and secondary education carried on in that way, am I right in assuming that the effect of that would probably be to make the children more anxious to pass into the fifth standard in order to go into the centre and get this change of training?—I think so, undoubtedly.

21140. That that would assist primary education and be a help to the scheme, and would give the children an incentive to qualify to join the domestic economy class?—Yes; that is the experience in other places, and you will see how important it is when you consider how very low the attendance at National schools in Ireland is, whereas the average attendance in England and Scotland, I believe, is 85 per cent.—

21141. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I would not press that too much, Mr. Fletcher. There are other reasons, such as the want of interest in the style of instruction in Irish National Schools. I am with you so far, but I think you might press your argument too far?—Yes; but surely it is worth while to consider whether this addition to primary education would not tend to prolong school life, and I am bound to plead for it.

21142. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—And is it your opinion that the general effect of the education in primary schools is rather a reason for interest being taken by the parents of the children in education which would qualify them for work and not to go away out of Ireland, or to go into the Police, or to look for Dublin situations?—I do not say that that would be the aim of it, but I feel that the tendency of the instruction given at the present time is away from the land; and it is certainly not such as to encourage to live at home.

21143. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is that a considered answer?—Yes.

21144. Has the thought merely occurred to you when the question was put, or is it a matter you have thought over, whether the character of primary education in Ireland is such as to stimulate or create a desire to get away from the land; and then, is it an established fact that there is a tendency to leave the land in Ireland? The reason I ask you is this: Professor Campbell made a remark like that, and I noted that its accuracy has been questioned in certain countries. Now, is it a fact that in Irish agricultural

life there is a tendency to leave the land?—Beyond question. Feb. 21, 1907.

21145. I am not referring to emigration, but is there, on the part of those who remain in Ireland, a tendency to leave the land—to abandon agriculture, and to take to other pursuits?—I am quite convinced that that is the tendency. Mr. George Fletcher.

21146. And you think that that tendency is stimulated by the character of the primary education of the country?—I do.

21147. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—For the reason that you have already stated—that that education has no relation whatever to the life they live in Ireland, or very little?—In general I am in clear agreement with that. I go further, and I say that almost everywhere to-day the tendency is away from the country towards the towns. The town populations are swelling, and the country is getting depleted. In Ireland, as there are few large towns, it has led very largely to emigration. I do not suggest that what I propose is the sole solution of the problem, but I say that if we wish to retain the people on the land, we should begin with the children, and give them such an education as would fit them for agricultural work. As a matter of fact, the education they receive is too often fitted to make a boy a second-rate clerk.

21148. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That tendency to get away from the land is not peculiar to Ireland, but is common also to England and Scotland?—Yes, that is so.

21149. Education in all three countries partakes of the disadvantage which you have pointed out?—It does; and a very large number of workers in education at the present time are fighting against it. If you will permit me to say so, this criticism involves no reflection upon educational authorities to-day, but I think the fact that education has taken this criticism involves no reflection upon educational authorities, but I think the fact that education has taken this direction is very largely due to the fact that originally education was for the few rather than for the many, and that, with the extension of education due to the passing of the Elementary Education Acts, the direction was not changed; education then was synonymous with scholarship. Since that time many evil changes have been done in the name of education, and one of those evil things has been that a number of youths who ought to have remained on the land have been brought into positions in which they could scarcely succeed. The tendency is not to make a man a useful farmer, but to get him a Civil Service clerkship, or a genteel post in a town.

21150. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You are aware that this tendency to escape from the country is not merely a common feature in the islands of Great Britain and Ireland, but is also a great problem in the Colonies, where land is plentiful, where there is a good climate, and where every effort is made by Governments in the direction of settling people on the land—where they can have land for nothing?—I am aware of that. I have recently visited America, and I know that the best educational thought in America, in the Universities, is turning its attention very seriously to this great problem. I know that the same tendency and the same defect prevails there.

21151. It is a universal problem?—Very largely universal.

21152. Now, will you resume where you left off?—Yes. It is my proposal to extend technical schemes of county instruction at present existing, hence the itinerant teachers at present employed will be as available for this work, but they will need supplementing. I suggest, then, that these central schools will be maintained by the County Technical Committee, who will allocate a teacher of domestic economy to the centre for, say, six months in the year, and a manual instructor for a similar period. The centre will be attended by scholars of the higher standards of the National schools in the daytime, and will be available for evening classes for adults in these and other technical subjects.

21153. You have given us the figure of £300 as the cost of the building—have you at all made an approximate estimate of how many of these rural training centres would be required?—I have it here.

21154. In establishing these, where would you commence—in the congested districts?—I am dealing here with a Congested Districts Commission, and therefore I am directing my evidence to that. What is true with regard to those congested districts is true of the whole.

Feb. 23, 1907. of Ireland, but I am only offering evidence here with regard to the congested districts.

Mr. George Fisher.

21155. Have you at all estimated how many rural centres would be required approximately in the congested districts?—I estimate the number at thirty.

21156. Mr. KAVANAGH.—If the National schools were to undertake the work of giving manual instruction, are the National school teachers qualified at present to teach up to Standard VII?—Well, as I have said, I do not believe that there is one manual workshop in the whole area.

21157. But supposing the National schools had the premises, are the present National school teachers qualified to teach up to Standard VII?—Speaking generally, no. Of course there are exceptions.

21158. But, generally, they are not?—Generally they are not, because there have been no sufficient means of training them.

21159. But the National school teachers of the future might be compelled to qualify?—Well, I hope not.

21160. You would rather separate it in the way which you have stated?—It is a very special kind of instruction. We do not find anywhere that the teaching of domestic economy, for instance, can be left to the ordinary school teacher.

21161. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You seem to be in some doubt about it. Really it would come to this, would it not, in the end—which road was going to swallow the other—whether you are to become the primary authority for Ireland, or whether it is to be the present authority. You leave very little to the primary education authority?—Not at all. As a matter of fact, this work which has not been attempted by them, and which they are perfectly willing and anxious that we should do. The question of instruction in the upper standards—manual instruction and domestic economy—was considered a couple of years ago by the Consultative Committee of Education. The question was fully considered, and was then submitted to the National Board. The National Board adapted the suggestions of the Consultative Committee, and you will find, on reference to the National Board's Programme, that they state quite distinctly that the teaching of these subjects in the upper standards is left to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

21162. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I think there is a movement now on foot to introduce the teaching of domestic economy into the primary schools?—I know there has been for some years. The National Board have already about thirteen instructresses, and these instructresses hold short courses in instruction for teachers from primary schools. That work is being done, but I think it only touches the lower standards. Much very valuable work may be done in the lower standards in the way of simple instruction in cleanliness and thrift and good habits in regard to the cleaning of the house, and so on.

21163. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you mean to say that these Primary School Commissioners are willing to surrender any powers they have?—It is not a question of surrender of power at all. Under the present circumstances they realise that it would be impossible for them to do this work, and that, on the other hand, because we have teachers in the districts, it would be possible for us to do it.

21164. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But you would have to build the premises, just the same as they would, for carrying out your manual instruction and your domestic economy instruction?—Of course, that is so.

21165. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would it be worth while having that body at all for the first portion?—I think it is your view that this suggestion of mine involves a sort of disruption of work which is already done by the National Board. That is not the case. It really means that there will be co-operation. I do not care how it is done, but it is work which needs to be done. If we were under the same roof it would be done probably in the same way.

21166. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I cannot see the objection to the National school teacher of the future, if he is qualified, doing it—always supposing he had the premises?—There is much virtue in an "if," and I quite agree that if the National school teacher were qualified he might do it. But at the present time it is quite well recognised that he is not qualified, and in the meantime this very important work is not being done.

21167. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—May I ask who are the

general educational authority in Ireland, and how it is constituted?—We have for general primary education the National Education Board.

21168. Is that a Department like yours?—No; it is a Board created by charter, and the members of it are nominated by the Lord Lieutenant.

21169. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It consists of twenty members nominated by the Lord Lieutenant, half Protestant and half Catholic.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are they permanent?

21170. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They are appointed for life?—They have control over the whole work of primary education in Ireland—the National schools. The secondary education is under the control of the Intermediate Board of Education.

21171. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And about their constitution—is that very much the same?—They are constituted in very much the same way—by charter.

21172. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They consist of twelve members similarly divided?—Quite so.

21173. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You are the authority for technical education?—Yes; and then the Congested Districts Board is the authority for the congested districts.

21174. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Will you now proceed?

—Some questions were asked just now about manual instruction in primary schools which I do not think I answered quite fully. Would you permit me to read a paragraph from our syllabus? The words apply, I think, as much to primary as to secondary schools. The paragraph will be found on page 167 of the Department's Programme of Experimental Science, etc., for secondary schools. "The object aimed at here is not technical but educational; not the knowledge of a craft, nor the acquisition of manual skill (though even the skill required will not be without its practical advantages), but intellectual and moral training. In the trade workshop manual dexterity is the main object, and a young workman acquires skill and rapidity of execution by mechanical repetition of the same or similar exercises. The intellectual interest of the artisan and his pride of workmanship are qualities of the highest importance. The aim, however, of his daily work is not so much the stimulation of the one and the cultivation of the other as the sale at market value of the articles produced. It is otherwise in a school. The stimulation and maintenance of the pupil's interest and pride in his work are cardinal factors in any educational method or system, and it is claimed that manual instruction, more than any other subject of the school curriculum, serves this purpose. In many phases of school work the pupil learns to repeat with precision what he is told or what he reads; he serves to transfer knowledge. The powers to retain and accurately transfer are thus tested. In many, too, his taste and judgment are called into play. But the productive faculty and the power of initiation have little exercise, and the scope for the pupil's individuality is small, but small. In wood or metal work manual dexterity is cultivated, and great accuracy in working from dimensioned drawings is demanded. Imagination is called into play; the pupil must form a complete mental picture of the finished work, for errors cannot be redressed by a scratch of the pen or the use of a sponge."

21175. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I think something like that has been claimed for natural philosophy?—For experimental science.

21176. Yes, and for Latin and Greek?—I never heard that Latin and Greek were of value for the purpose of training the executive powers.

21177. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You mean by "executive powers" hand and eye training?—And muscle training; it is commonly neglected, and consequently, when a boy leaves school, he is unable to do anything with his hands.

21178. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Can he play football?—The exercise that will enable a boy to play football will not enable him to become a carpenter. I am anxious not to go too far afield, but it is a recognised physiological principle at the present time that the brain areas controlling the fundamental muscles of the body are developed at a period before those controlling the finer adjustments which are really not cultivated by football or other such games.

21179. Did you never see a boy who had had no manual instruction make a bird-case?—Of course, as artists may be found without education; but I take it

you would not argue that therefore it is not necessary to educate a boy in manual work.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—No; the only question is whether you would be diverting him from some other field in which he would do better work. Of course, there may be good grounds for it.

21181. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Will you please go on?—In addition to offering a solution of the problem as regards primary schools, the proposal goes far to solve our difficulty in the matter of technical instruction in rural districts, in which the greatest difficulty is at present experienced in finding rooms in which to conduct classes under itinerant teachers; this proposal involves only an extension of the system of itinerant instruction under County Technical Committees, an increase in the number of teachers, and extending the length of the courses of instruction. There exists all the machinery for the training of teachers required. You will see to what extent these courses at the present time exist in congested districts by reference to a paper I put in headed "List of Industrial and Domestic Economy Classes conducted in Congested Districts prior to the 1st August, 1933, and similar classes between 1933 and 1936." There were held altogether in congested districts during this period 81 courses in domestic economy, 36 courses in manual instruction, and 27 courses of an industrial character.

21182. This is in the congested districts alone?—In the congested districts alone. Quite apart from any other consideration we are bound to endeavour to solve this problem of finding suitable rooms in which to give instruction. I advocate the introduction of what is spoken of as "nature knowledge" for boys and girls. I mean instruction in what, perhaps, would be a better term—"rural economy"—which does not necessarily involve an additional subject. I think if you would look through the National Board Programme you will see that such a subject could be very well taught under the heading of experimental science and geography. In order to make clear what I mean by this term, "rural economy," I venture to lay before you a syllabus showing the kind of instruction that I mean.† It is a course in which part is common to both boys and girls, with special work for boys and for girls. I am not going to discuss this in detail now, but I have a strong feeling that such instruction should be given in our primary schools. That instruction should be given by the teachers of the National schools. It is necessary that such work should be assimilated into the general educational work of the school, and should be brought into healthy relationship with every subject taught in the school, and it is for this reason essential that it should be taught by the National school teacher. This, of course, necessitates exceptional means of providing the special training required. I propose to provide that training first by the establishment of summer courses in rural economy on lines similar to those already adopted by the Department in training teachers of experimental science and drawing; these courses would be given to teachers in Technical Schools, who would in turn conduct classes for National teachers in provincial technical schools already in operation. Provision has already been made for the establishment of such classes, but allow me to explain exactly what this means. My first point is that if you are to introduce this teaching in rural economy it should be done by the National school teachers. There is now opportunity for teaching of the kind I describe under the Programme if teachers were trained. The problem resolves itself, therefore, into the training of teachers. We have means at hand by which the Department can co-operate with the National Board in the training of National teachers, and we already have in our urban technical schools a number of classes in which further training is given to teachers of National schools. I propose now that we should establish summer courses in rural economy for teachers from technical schools and others, in order that the technical schools should take on teaching of this character for teachers from rural districts. In this work the National Board are ready to assist by giving facilities for their teachers to attend, and we are at liberty to maintain such classes out of the Science and Art grant. And in this connection let me lay before you the programme of the Department for schools other than day secondary schools. In these evening schools we hold classes for National school teachers, and the cost of such classes may be borne by the Department to the

extent of three-fourths of the total cost. I point out here how the extension of this work of the summer courses would, in my opinion, go far to meet the difficulty. A few minutes ago you, Sir John, raised the question of the probable expenditure when I mentioned the desirability of establishing certain rural training centres, which I suggested would cost £300 each.

21183. And thirty would be required for the congested districts?—Yes. That, of course, would be only the beginning.

21184. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—You would look forward to a very large extension?—Certainly. Their equipment would be another £100 each. That is capital expenditure.

21185. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—That £300 does not include equipment?—No. £300 for building and £100 for equipment.

21186. That is £400 to start with?—Yes. The annual expenditure would be as follows. The appointment of fifteen additional manual instructors at, say, £120 per annum; fifteen domestic economy teachers at, say, £80 per annum. The maintenance of these centres would probably cost £200 per annum each—for materials, heating, lighting, and so on.

21187. That brings the total gross approximate outlay to what?—With the summer courses in rural economy for teachers of Technical and National schools, and with additional aid to rural (non-agricultural) industries of £2,000, the total annual expenditure would be £4,500.

21188. It would mean a considerable addition to the number of inspectors. What number of itinerant instructors would be necessary in order to give this rural training which you propose for these centres? What number of instructors are there now employed in the congested districts?—You are exclusively employed by us in the congested districts. The county teachers are operating all over the area, congested and non-congested, and each county has two or three. I think I gave the numbers exactly.

21189. Your scheme, and this estimated expenditure of so much a year, is to meet the special needs of the congested districts at the start, and you do not conceal from the Commission the fact that it would have to be in time developed?—I prefer to leave the future to itself. I myself would be entirely averse from commencing with thirty centres; I would commence with one or two, and test each step. I have no doubt whatever as to the necessity of it, or as to the success of it, but to introduce it gradually would, I believe, be the best course.

21190. You would settle your policy, and settle the way in which it was to be carried out, and you would then begin with one or two places, and develop the scheme as experience and necessity taught?—Exactly.

21191. Assuming all that to be agreed to by the authorities, and assuming that this scheme was going to be carried out, what would be the circumstances which would determine you as to where to begin in the congested districts?—In the first place geographical considerations—the grouping of schools—and in the next place the experience we have gained in these districts by the reports of our itinerant instructors as to where the students have attended in the greatest numbers.

21192. And by those centres which have been held you have got some clue, at all events, as to the different parts of the congested districts where there is greater readiness and willingness, and a greater desire on the part of the population, to benefit by and to take advantage of what you have to offer them in the way of teaching?—That is so, undoubtedly.

21193. Can you tell me this. Dealing with counties, do you find that Donegal, owing to its circumstances, as compared with Galway and Mayo, offers you a better field for commencing? Are there any peculiar circumstances in Donegal that make it more receptive and more willing and anxious to benefit by what has been done by your Department?—I do not know what those circumstances are, but it is a fact that schemes do go extremely well in Donegal. I cannot analyse the circumstances, but undoubtedly it is the fact that these schemes are popular.

21194. That being so, supposing you had the authority and the money to commence carrying out your policy, would your mind naturally gravitate to Donegal in order to begin?—No; it has not done so, I must confess, because although they may be more ready to take it up, the needs of other counties are

* See page 124.

† See page 127.

Feb. 21, 1897.
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Mr. George
Fitzelen.

equally great, and I would also choose centres in other counties where the work had been successful too.

21198. Would you be influenced very much in the desire to go to Galway and Mayo, where in a particular locality there is just as much interest and desire to take advantage of what you have to offer them as the way of instruction?—Certainly.

21199. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have the Department at present any fund to bear this capital outlay of £8,000 a year?—None.

21200. You mean it would be an extra call?—No. Would you allow me to make a further reference to what is proposed here? I ought to say that even if the Department had the money—which we have not, on the technical side—we should be excluded by statute from doing the work out of our endowment by the definition of technical instruction in the Act. I draw your attention to Part I. of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, 1896, section 2 (1).

(c). You will perceive that that section transfers to the Department the administration of the grant for science and art in Ireland. That is the grant that has been provided for very many years past, and was originally administered by South Kensington. The powers of South Kensington were not conferred by Act of Parliament, but by charter, and the expenditure was practically what the Treasury could be got to approve. The Department of Science and Art not only gave grants in respect of science and art classes, but also for instruction in elementary schools in drawing and manual work. There is no reason why any money which could be obtained from the Treasury under that section should not be administered by the Department in primary schools. As a matter of fact, at the present time, as I have explained, we are responsible for drawing in about ninety primary schools in Ireland—I mean in the schools of the Christian Brothers which are not under the National Board—the money we expend there is not from our endowment but from the Science and Art vote. I want to make clear that we have the power, if we could get the money, to do this. While we have no power to spend the Department's endowment in any branch of primary education, although technical in character, yet, if the money could be obtained, there would be no difficulty in our doing it in the manner proposed.

21201. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Has the grant been increased since you took the work over?—Very largely. At the time we began to do the work the Science and Art grant was below £5,000; it is now nearer £30,000.

21202. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you mean £5,000 when this Act was passed?—Yes.

21203. In 1896?—Yes.

21204. And in eight years it has increased six fold?—Yes.

21205. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You have explained that it was because the National schools did not earn it that we did not get it?—It was not earned by the schools working in connection with South Kensington, but now we are earning it.

21206. But we were entitled to it then?—As to that I think I ought to make this fact clear—that prior to the establishment of the Department the conditions under which Ireland earned these science and art grants were those of the Directory of the Science and Art Department. Grants were paid on the results of teaching the prescribed subjects, at first on the results of examination and afterwards on attendance and inspection. Now although these classes were scattered over Ireland, the amount of money earned by the way of grants was only, as I have said, about £5,000. These subjects were in many instances not suited to the students or the districts. These regulations have now been completely changed, and made suitable for Ireland, both in regard to secondary schools, for which there is a separate programme, and in regard to technical schools under this programme, which lays down the conditions under which the Treasury will pay grants for technical education in Ireland, and you will see that in this programme for evening schools there is no technical subject worth teaching that we cannot get a grant for. The subjects of instruction in such schools are commercial subjects, languages, mathematics, higher commercial subjects, science, pure and applied, handicrafts, domestic economy, and art subjects. In any one of these subjects grants may be earned on the scale laid down. The present system we believe to be a very good one; it is based in part on attendance, with increased grants for prolonged

attendance, and in part on efficiency of instruction as determined by inspection.

21207. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You could get a grant for higher mathematics, could you?—Yes.

21208. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do I understand you rightly to say that this increased expenditure, or increase of money to expend in this way since 1896—this sixfold increase—does not to any increased generosity on the part of the Treasury, but to increased capacity for earning the grant? Is that the position—that more has been earned—or is it that the generosity of the Treasury has been greater?—It means this—that the original conditions under which the grants were payable were unfavourable to the country, while now the programme is a rational one, and such as can be put into practice.

21209. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The former programme was that of South Kensington; the present reasonable one is your own?—Our own. I was for some years an inspector under South Kensington, and an old teacher under South Kensington rules; no one knows better than I do the vast amount of good that was done by the South Kensington system, but it was applicable to the whole of the three kingdoms, and as things developed it was found to be unsuitable for Scotland and to be unsuitable for Ireland.

21210. And it was transferred to the Education Department in Scotland?—Yes.

21211. And they have got no increase of grant, or at all events a very small one—which is very striking. I am talking of what I know?—Well, it was found to be unsuitable for Scotland, it was found to be unsuitable for Ireland, as you know, and it was found to be unsuitable for England; and in the fulness of time it was revised, and a scheme somewhat on these lines replaced it.

21212. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Just for the sake of getting it on the record, will you tell me what would be the total estimated cost for the additional staff which would be necessary to set going the policy which you propose. You have given us the cost of the buildings?—The total capital expenditure?

21213. The total capital expenditure, and also the total increase of annual expenditure involved?—The total annual expenditure would be £2,550, and the total capital expenditure £12,000.*

21214. Now, will you go on to the question of the encouragement of industries?—In the first place, let me say that there is a very strong desire on the part of the Technical Committee in Ireland to turn their attention to the encouragement of industrial enterprise. The power of the Department are these. In regard to rural industries we have very wide powers to assist them at the Department's discretion. So far, however, as industries of a non-rural character are concerned, the only aid we can give is in the way of technical training. So far as rural industries are concerned, we have given all the help possible within our means; in the case of industries which are not strictly rural we have given aid by the training of workmen. We have power to give aid out of our endowment for such training, and we have further power to give money voted by Parliament for this work also. In the evening programme to which I have drawn attention, there is in Clause 4, provision for day schools for apprentices and classes engaged in business. Under that clause we have the power to make payment equal to three-fourths of the total annual expenditure in regard to schools and classes for apprentices, and these classes may be held either in the technical school or in the workshops or factories. At the present time there is no school in Ireland worked under that scheme. I mention that in this connection because I think it is very important. The methods adopted by the Department to encourage rural industries are these. First of all, the appointment of county teachers of industries, of which there are a large number under the County Committees, mainly in such subjects as lace, crochet, machine-knitting, needlework, etc. In the County Fermanagh, for example, the scheme consists almost entirely of this kind of work; they have eight or nine county teachers of crochet and springing, and the income is that county from these classes is between £4,000 and £5,000 a year.

21215. When you speak of the increased desire for technical instruction and so on, do you mean desire on the part of the constituted bodies under your Department in the counties—do you mean the County Councils?—Yes, but I mean more than that; I

*See page 251.

mean there is also a desire on the part of the public, quite outside the Department.

21214. Would you say from your experience, taking the County Committee and opinion in the counties, that there is more interest shown in the development of the industrial side of progress than in the agricultural?—No, I am not prepared to say that, but what has been spoken of as the industrial revival has been a very real thing in Ireland in the past few years: the desire of the people to re-establish industries suitable to Ireland has led to the establishment of industrial associations; there is an excellent one in Cork, another in Dublin, and they are to be found all over the country. This feeling has been stimulated and has found expression in numerous Festschrifts all over the country, which have created an extraordinary amount of interest in Irish home industries.

21215. And that is increasing, not diminishing?—That is so.

21216. Your opinion, from your experience, is that this has come to stay, and that it is an increasing factor in the Irish problem—this interest in, and this desire to promote in a sensible, rational, and energetic way the industries of the country?—I am quite sure that it will be permanent, especially if there is a response on the part of those responsible for technical teaching and for industrial development in Ireland.

21217. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—Do you think that these movements in a country are greatly influenced by the character and composition of the County Committees?—Undoubtedly.

21218. Is the action of the County Committee much dependent upon the personal character of the Chairman of the Committee?—I think the work of a County Committee is very strongly influenced by the personal character of its Chairman. I might almost divide County Committees into two categories—one where there is a good, progressive chairman, and the other where the opposite is the case.

21219. Is the Chairman selected by the Committee, or by the County Council?—The Chairman of the Committee, I think, is selected by the Committee.

21220. Do you find—if you have no information to give to not answer this—that in the selection of the Chairman all sectarian, party, and political feeling is thrown aside, and that the best man is chosen?—Yes, I do; I have found no signs in these local bodies of such a spirit of narrowness as would exclude a particular person on account of his political or religious views.

21221. And when men of different political views and religious beliefs come together on these local bodies for the purpose of doing certain work, they are not influenced by religious or political differences?—If there be such an influence I have never perceived it.

21222. And you look upon this combination, or coming together, of different sections of the community in the performance of public business as a thing which is likely to mitigate and remove religious and political antipathies?—Absolutely; I cannot imagine any more healthy influence.

21223. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You were measuring the success of this industrial movement to some extent by the number of associations that exist. I demand that up to a certain point that is right and just, but do you not think that at a certain point we would be justified in asking for the results which have been brought about by these associations?—Yes.

21224. Do any means exist of showing that progress has been made in Ireland, commensurate (in some small degree, of course, to begin with), with the huge amount of money that has been expended on such work during the past few years?—Let me first separate two ideas. One is that public money has been expended on these associations. That is not the case; these associations are wholly voluntary, and if they have spent any money it is their own. Then with regard to the fruits of public money expended in technical education and industrial development, I think one does see fruits already, but it is not rather too much to expect to measure the fruit within three or four years of the commencement of such a movement?

21225. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—Had you not got a great deal of educational work to do before people came to understand what it was that you were driving at?—Certainly.

21226. And that educational work would produce no fruit that could be measured in the way that Mr.

Sutherland suggests?—If it were measurable it would be transient. As a matter of fact nobody who has studied the question at all can doubt the permanent character of the work.

21227. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I have put a similar question to several witnesses. We have had statistics put before us about various matters—for instance, we had statistics as to the absolute amount of the export of eggs this year. That amount looked large, but when I asked how that compared with the previous year, the witness told me there was no means of knowing. Now, surely in a simple matter like that there ought to be the means of comparing the figures year by year?—I think I am a little off my ground, in dealing with agricultural produce, but as regards industries other than agricultural, I can point you to a number of figures which will show you there has been considerable increase.

21228. And I suppose you could point to some industries that have been stopped?—As a result of the work?

21229. Industries which began, and which stopped—we have seen instances of that?—Oh, yes, certainly.

21230. Now, you say there has not been public money spent. What is the gross Vote for your Department?—For the whole Department?

21231. Yes—I can get those figures.

21232. It is over £100,000?—No, not for Technical Instruction.

21233. The Vote the House of Commons pass every year for this purpose?—It is a large sum, I daresay.

21234. And it has been voted since the year 1860 or 1900, year by year. Is not that a large sum of public money to spend?—Nobody doubts it.

21235. Is there anything commensurate with it in any other part of the kingdom—in England or in Scotland?—Indeed there is.

21236. Where?—In both. I can show you, if it be necessary, that the amounts voted to Ireland are by no means in excess of those voted to the sister countries. I am quite certain about that.

21237. Taking the estimates for Scotland, where do you find anything corresponding to those figures which I have given you for Ireland?—Pardon me; I am quite prepared to show you that almost in every instance Scotland is getting a grant proportionately quite as large as Ireland.

21238. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—Is it not the fact that a large portion of the money you spend comes from your endowment, which is purely Irish money, and which is not voted by Parliament at all?—That is so. So far as the technical education funds are concerned, which is all I profess to be able to speak about, I say that the grants coming to us are not larger in proportion than those of England and Scotland, and the claims made to the Treasury for consideration was based upon that.

21239. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—For these particular objects?—Yes.

21240. You are talking, are you not, of the amount of the Vote to each country?—I am talking of the amounts voted for technical instruction.

21241. But with regard to statistics for the purpose of being able to compare, year by year, the progress that has been made, have any steps been taken to provide that in future those statistics shall be supplied?—Oh, yes; there is a Parliamentary Paper on the question, which I think will give the expenditure on education of all kinds in the three countries.

21242. On education?—On education, yes.

21243. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Is it not the case that your Department—your particular branch—having set up machinery for giving technical education, must in its natural sequence take a long time to show any results?—I think that goes without saying.

21244. Taking a new district of Ireland, into which you have put your machinery, the results of the working of that machinery would not appear in any physical form for some considerable time afterwards?—No; you might as well expect to see the man in the child.

21245. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I do not refer to that at all; I refer to these figures?—I am only dealing, and am only qualified to deal, with finance as far as it concerns education, and that I am quite prepared to do.

21246. How does the number of classes this year compare with that of the preceding year, and how does the number of pupils compare with that of the previous year? There has been a marked absence of

Ms. 21, 1907

Mr. George Ritchie.

Feb 21, 1905.
Mr. George
Fletcher.

that kind of information in all the literature I have read on the subject?—There is most positive information there, and I am prepared to answer any questions on that subject. The whole of the information you have asked for, so far as I can see, is to be found on pages 55-6 of the Department's Annual Report for 1904-05. That shows the number of students attending technical classes in Ireland, and there are curves there that will show the development from year to year. That development has been most marked; the increase in the number of students has been very large indeed. Observe these ascending curves. I can speak with some knowledge of both countries, and I say there is nothing like that rate of advance to be found in England.

21285. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Now will you deal with the methods employed by the Department for the encouragement of rural industries?—Yes. I have already referred to county teachers of industries, and also to exhibition grants given in girls' technical schools, and this aid is supplemented by the expert advice and assistance given by our inspectors and by the employment from time to time of special experts to report upon any industrial proposal that is made. I would like to say here, because it is of vast importance, a word as to the delimitation between home industries and other industries. I have watched the development of a number of home industries in Ireland, and I think we should carefully distinguish between a home industry and one which on the surface of things, should be carried out under factory conditions. Although a large amount of aid has been given to industries which on regards as auxiliary to agriculture, there is some danger that they will not prove the best thing for the people in the long run. I mean this. By home industry one should, I think, mean an industry which should be calculated rather to decrease the expenditure of a household than to increase its income.

21286. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—A home industry should aim at decreasing expenditure rather than at increasing income?—Yes.

21287. Will you develop that?—I think in a good many cases you would probably find an inquiry that although a girl was making lace and crochet work, yet, at the same time, she was buying her own dresses and underclothing, and under such circumstances there is very real danger, to which one must have an eye, that what are called home industries in Ireland will have a tendency to spoil the girls for home life, and that instead of increased comfort there may be a steady decline in the comforts of home life. Let me not be misunderstood. I know that the introduction of these industries, lacemaking, crochet, and the rest, has brought in a certain amount of money, and has, in some instances, undoubtedly ameliorated the lot of many people. But I have watched a good many of these small industries develop, and there is always a point where they come to grief. The Department has given aid to a number of industries, to pay the salary of teachers, and in successive years, one has seen them improve until at last the industry has become quite stationary, or has even gone back. I myself have made personal inquiries in many cases, and find that the limit of usefulness is reached when they have got to a point of completely supplying the local market. You say, "Well, cannot you extend your market, have you tried the large houses in Dublin?" They say, "Yes." You ask, "Are they not willing to give orders?" and they say, "Yes, but they cannot be compelled with." If you ask, "Why not?" they say, "Well, because orders must be given in bulk, and the goods must be of a certain uniform standard." Well, the market conditions in these cases are such that the home industry cannot compete with the factory which is equipped with machinery. Moreover, if you help an industry like that to meet this difficulty by assisting it with machinery such as will enable it to produce a uniform article, immediately then you are approximating to the conditions of a small factory, and it is absolutely necessary then that there should be a steady and continuous output; there are certain fixed charges which have always to be met in such an industry, and unless the output is large enough to pay for these fixed charges the industry will fail. What I mean is this: you are driven to set up a small factory. Now, the question is, since Ireland is no place for large factories, what chance is

there of establishing and maintaining small factories? It is a very big question indeed, and I do not know just how fully you would wish me to deal with it. The question turns largely, I take it, upon price of labour, upon cost of power, and upon organisation. Speaking, generally, while labour is cheaper in rural districts, the question of power is a difficulty.

21288. For my own part, I would like to have a paper put in by you on this subject, because your evidence, so far as I can understand, is in direct conflict with the evidence given by some of the experts of the Congested Districts Board. It is in direct conflict, for instance, with the evidence of Mr. Walker. The principle you laid down at the commencement, unless qualified, would seem to point to the fact that all these industries, such as lace-making, crochet work, and so forth, are doing no more than diverting the attention of the young people in the congested districts into grooves which will lead nowhere—I do not think I was quite so far as that; what I said was that there is a very real danger that those industries, unless safeguarded, would tend to spoil the workers for home life.

21289. Mr. STRUTT-LANK.—In support of your view I would like to ask one general question. Take any of the manufacturing parts of England, take Lancashire, does working in the factories spoil the girls for household work?—In a much higher degree than in Ireland. In support of my view, which I hold to be unassailable, we all know that in Lancashire the factory girl has been trained wholly away from home life and the duties of the home, and it is a very real danger with us, too.

21290. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Will you kindly prepare and send the Secretary a paper dealing with, and elaborating your view, on this question?—Certainly.*

21291-2. In relation to that one point you seem to indicate that the tendency of the lace-making and such industries is not to improve their condition or to make the girls more anxious to make their own clothes. You seem to attribute that effect to the teaching of lace-making by the Department. Have you inquired at all as to the change of habit of the people long before this Department or the Congested Districts Board was established in the South and West of Ireland that whereas twenty or thirty years ago the girls were all dressed in what they used to make themselves, owing entirely to the change of fashion these home industries absolutely died out because it is not the fashion, and girls go to shops and buy American goods rather than make their own clothes?—That is the precise point at which I was hammering. We have tried, as the Congested Districts Board have tried, to encourage these industries which have brought aid to the rural districts. My point is we must draw a sharp line between that and homeword. That there has been such a decline in homeword as I have mentioned nobody can have any doubt.

21293. You will develop that?—I will develop that.

21294. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In your paper you will bring out the alternative. It will be directed to showing not only the evil results which you argue follow from devotion to this particular form of industry, but you will also give the alternative. You will not limit yourself to destructive criticism. You will also show what ought to be done?—Yes. I would wish the Commission to bear in mind what I believe to be a very real danger. Further, I suppose you would wish me to develop this idea I have mentioned of the introduction of small factory industries. That, in my mind, is far and away the most important, because rightly or wrongly I don't believe that any form of agricultural improvement will alone check emigration, and the only thing will be the introduction of industries other than agricultural, and that cannot be done on the basis of the so-called home industries. That clears the ground a good deal, and I think we have already dealt with the subjects referred to in the remainder of my memorandum. I had proposed to give evidence here as to the policy and practice of the Department in the direction of aiding industries; I think, however, this had best find its place in a carefully considered memorandum.

21295. Then we can recall you when we have had time to digest your memorandum, and examine you on it if any Commissioner wishes to do so?—I shall be glad to answer any questions.

* For Memorandum on "Rural Industries and Training for House Wives," pp. 227-31.

21254. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The Congested Districts Board have already, as you are aware, done some work of a business kind in dealing with some of these tracts. Would your Department be fitted to deal with a practical problem like that—take the case of Foxford, for instance. You know the development that has been made there?—We are quite fitted to do it, but it is a question to what extent what I may call the Congested Districts Board method is desirable or the Departmental one. Ours has been rather that of assisting individual effort. We have assisted the development of a woollen mill in Killybegs by granting a certain number of scholarships.

21255. That is, I presume, all the Congested Districts Board do?—They did very much more at Foxford, unquestionably.

21256. But it was a very tangible and important

thing, was not it, to start it and keep it going?—They started it going, I believe. They gave a loan of, I think, £2,000 and then a capital grant.

21257. Would you deal with a case like that?—We only have the power of dealing in that very free manner with an industry which is properly described as a rural industry.

21258. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In other words, you really at the bottom of your mind, don't approve of the methods adopted by the Congested Districts Board in dealing with the Foxford industry?—It is not the method we have adopted, and it is not one we should adopt. The tendency is rather to supplement individual effort in every possible way, but to take no responsibility. In other words, not to interfere in any way in industrial competition, but to hold one's aid to any genuine attempt.

Mr. R. A. ANDERSON examined.

21259. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are Secretary of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Limited?—Yes.

21260. Will you proceed with your statement, and we will ask such questions as suggest themselves as you go along?—I have been Secretary to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society since the formation in April, 1894. The objects of the Society, as stated in its rules (copies of which I hand in), are "To organise agriculture and other industries in Ireland on co-operative lines." Prior to my appointment to this position I had had considerable experience of co-operative organisation in Ireland. As far back as 1884 I attempted, and almost succeeded, in organising a co-operative dairy company at Clunkeshilly, Co. Cork. In the year 1890 I met Sir (then Mr.) Horace Plunkett, who had just returned from America, and who discussed with me his ideas for organising co-operative societies of farmers to establish creameries owned and worked by themselves, and thus save the profits of and retain the control over the dairying industry, which was, at that time, as the result of mechanical invention, being rapidly converted from a domestic into a factory industry. The few creameries which then existed were in the majority of cases owned by proprietors; the remainder were the property of joint stock companies composed of farmers and others. Sir Horace Plunkett proposed to substitute for these proprietary concerns a system of co-operative creameries owned, financed, and worked by the farmers themselves, paying a limited dividend on capital, and distributing the surplus net profit between the milk suppliers and the workers as a dividend on their trade and as a bonus on their wages respectively. It is upon these lines that the co-operative creameries now being organised are still formed. Sir Horace Plunkett invited me to take part in this work, he at that time providing all the funds necessary for it. It was then that Lord Montagu became associated with him in this first attempt to organise Irish farmers on lines similar to those which had been successfully followed by their foreign rivals, but of which even we at that time knew nothing. The attention of the leaders of the English Co-operative Movement, Judge Hughes, Mr. E. Vassartt Neale, Mr. J. M. Ludlow, Mr. George Jacob Holyrood, and others, was attracted to the new movement in Ireland by some writings of Sir Horace Plunkett and by the views he expressed at the annual Co-operative Congresses at Ipswich and Glasgow in 1895 and 1896, and the Co-operative Union shortly afterwards granted a subsidy towards agricultural co-operative organisations in Ireland, which, together with contributions from individual sympathisers, were administered by a Committee of the Co-operative Union called the "Irish Section." The Co-operative Union being mainly concerned for the establishment of distributive co-operation through the medium of stores, had done nothing in England in the direction of introducing co-operative methods among farmers. The Irish experiment was, therefore, watched with much interest, and the reports of its progress were very fully discussed at the Annual Co-operative Congresses.

21261. You speak of retaining the control over the dairying industry which was at that time as the result of mechanical invention, being rapidly converted from a domestic into a factory industry?—Yes.

21262. Would you indicate what were the disadvantages, in your opinion, of a factory industry as contrasted with a domestic industry?—The disadvantages from a farmer's point of view was that with the factory industry the machinery was too costly for the individual farmer to acquire for himself and for his own use; and at that time the more modern appliances—hand separators, &c.—had not been put on the market. Therefore, it was necessary either to have the industry carried on in a factory owned by capitalists or to have a number of farmers associated together for the purpose of owning the necessary machinery and operating the factory.

21263. The change was that the farmers became their own shareholders, so to speak?—Yes.

21264. And I observe that the surplus net profits was divided between the milk suppliers—these are the farmers, I suppose?—Yes.

21265. Between the milk suppliers and the workers as a dividend on their trade, and as a bonus on their wages respectively?—Yes.

21266. Were they girls chiefly?—The staff employed by the creamery participated in the profits of the creamery. They were of both sexes.

21267. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you describe the creamery as a factory industry?—Yes, I should.

21268. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then you speak of organising Irish farmers on lines similar to those which had been successfully followed by their foreign rivals. Are those the lines of a domestic creamery?—No. At that time domestic dairying had given place to the factory creamery in Denmark and elsewhere, and we found that the price of home-made butter was going down to such a point that farmers were actually giving up dairying owing to the competition of creamery-made butter.

21269. It was not Lord Montagu's object to establish creameries "on the lines successfully followed by their foreign rivals"?—We did it unconsciously, really. We did not know what was going on in foreign countries, but we saw that the butter as it had been made in Ireland was speedily losing its place in the market, and it was necessary to produce an article which would be more uniform in quality and capable of being produced more economically in order to maintain its place in the market.

21270. And in Denmark that was done by what you call the factory industry?—Yes. That had been done for some time prior to our commencing this work in Ireland, but we did not at that time know anything about it. All we knew was that butter was coming in from Denmark which in the eyes of the buyers here was immeasurably superior to our butter and we had to make something like it if we wanted to keep our trade.

21271. I do not think I made myself clear. Do I understand that Lord Montagu's object was to establish creamery factories in Ireland "on the lines successfully followed by their foreign rivals"?—Yes.

21272. Perhaps you will just explain what is the Co-operative Union to which you refer here. It is not an Irish body, I understand?—No. The Co-operative Union is an association composed of the affiliated co-operative societies in England and Scotland. It is the central organising and advisory body for the co-operative movement, and its work is carried on under the direction of a board elected by the

Feb 21, 1897.

Mr. George Fildes.

Mr. R. A. Anderson.

Feb. 24, 1907.

Mr. R. A.
Asquith.

different societies scattered all over the United Kingdom. This body looks after the interests of the co-operative movement here, and promotes legislation useful for the movement, and, generally speaking, advises the societies on all large questions affecting their status as Co-operative Societies.

21275. Is practically a private society run by private funds and subscription?—It is more in the nature of a trade union.

21276. I mean it is not in any way subsidised or assisted?—No. It is maintained altogether by the subscription of the societies.

21277. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I want to know whether the present co-operative movement are what you would describe as the factory industry?—Yes. After four years' work—during which time thirty-three co-operative societies had been formed—it was found that the demands for organisation so far exceeded the resources at the disposal of the promoters that it was decided to incorporate a propagandist body to which sympathisers with the movement might contribute funds. Thus it was that the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was created, and, as the figures will show, the societies began to increase and multiply. In 1899, when the work began, there was one society with a membership of fifty; in 1904, when the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society started, there were thirty-four societies, with a membership of 1,690; in 1905, when the Department of Agriculture started, there were 477 societies, with a membership of 45,206; our returns for 1906 are not yet completed, but there were approximately 831 societies with a membership of 60,000 on the 31st December, 1906.

21278. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You had then been running about sixteen years?—Yes. As Mr. Russell, who gave evidence before this Commission previously,* has stated, 137 of these societies, or nearly the one-sixth, are situated in the Congested Districts. That the proportion is not greater is due to various reasons which, perhaps, it may be as well to state. I may add that since Mr. Russell gave his evidence, I have looked more closely into the statistics, and I make the number of societies to be 160. I am taking into account societies which operate partly in congested and partly in non-congested districts, and that accounts for the difference between my figures and Mr. Russell's. Perhaps I may give these figures now. Mr. Russell gave figures relating to eighty-four co-operative banks or credit societies, with a membership of 5,026, and a turnover of £14,385. In addition to those, I take in thirty-five co-operatives, with a membership of 7,360, and a trade turnover of £55,270; thirty-five agricultural societies, with a membership of 4,692, and a trade turnover of £20,071; and six miscellaneous societies, with a membership of 455, and a trade turnover of £3,468. That brings the total of societies in, or working in connection with, Congested Districts to 160, with a membership of 16,773, and an annual turnover, according to the last returns, of £123,141.

21279. You say that after four years' work it was found that the demand for organisation so far exceeded the resources at the disposal of the promoters that it was decided to incorporate a propagandist body. What was the development of that?—I do not quite follow?—The farmers in districts where no societies had been started had heard of the success of the thirty-four societies, and were continually writing to me and asking me to arrange for the formation of similar societies. But it was quite impossible to grapple with all this work with such funds as Sir Horace Plunkett and his friends could provide.

21280. Then the applications to you were not merely to organise, the applicants providing the capital, but they were for you to organise and obtain capital?—Oh, no; in every case the application was merely to teach them how to form a society, on the understanding that they, the farmers, would find the necessary capital. Latterly, the major portion of the society's income had been derived from a subsidy granted by the Department of Agriculture, and while no restrictions were imposed by that body upon the society, as to its being expended on organisation work outside the congested area, it was only natural that it should in the main be so expended, particularly having regard to the fact that the Congested Districts Board has up to this, save in exceptional cases only, approved of and paid for the organisation of Rathfriland Credit Society in

the districts under its charge. Moreover, the organisation of these societies was specially deputed to one member of the society's staff, whose experience was limited to that particular kind of society. I have no doubt whatever as to the necessity for other forms of co-operative organisation in these districts, neither have I any doubt as to their being generally and successfully adopted if only the society had the funds necessary for their work. It must be remembered, however, that the introduction of every form of organisation on self-help lines among a people so demoralised by alternate applications of coercion and coaxing is a work of great difficulty which entails infinite labour, patience, and tact, to say nothing of considerable cost. For the most part the people are miserably poor and almost totally ignorant of ordinary business methods. Their self-reliance had been sapped by doles from Government, they self-respect destroyed by a demoralising system of credit which in many cases amounts to usury—in some to absolute servitude. Moreover, their mental and physical capabilities have been undermined by the steady exodus to America of those of both sexes who were the fittest among the community to perpetuate the race.

21281. Mr. STEPHENSON.—These are strong statements?—They are, rather, but they are facts.

21282. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would you describe to us what part of the expense of organisation falls upon the society. I rather gathered from you before that the applicants for the establishment of these societies wanted to carry them on by themselves, only wanting them to be started. Here you speak of the people themselves being so poor as to be unable to take upon themselves, as I understand, any part of the expense of organisation. Would you explain to me upon what part of the organisation in starting one of these societies the funds of your society are expended?—The only expenditure of funds is in connection with the payment of the salaries and expenses of the organisers. In attempting to introduce business methods among people who have had no previous experience of them the work is very much more costly than in districts where the people are more experienced in doing business. In no case does the Organisation Society provide any of the necessary capital. We only give advice, but the giving of advice in remote districts, where going about from place to place alone is an expensive matter, and the dealing with a very scattered and not very businesslike community, is a matter which involves a very large expenditure of money and of time.

21283. It would perhaps be more true to say that it was on education or instruction, rather than on organisation, the expenditure of your society is incurred?—It was very largely so, because to teach efficiently the principles of co-operative organisation one had to give them a great deal of instruction in ordinary business methods.

21284. Mr. KAVANAGH.—In making that statement are you speaking of the Congested Districts, or are you speaking of the whole of Ireland?—Of the Congested Districts, and of some other districts which are not congested, but in which the people are very poor and where the conditions are practically the same as in Congested Districts. For instance, I do not at all mean that that would refer to the eastern side of Ireland or to the South, or to the North.

21285. Sir JAMES CONNELL.—You give us particulars of the growth in fifteen years of the number of societies and the increase in membership; can you give us for those years also the growth of your revenue?—Of the revenue of the Society?

21286. Of your funds?—I am afraid that the growth of our funds has been in inverse ratio to the increase of the movement, and the reason of that is that when the Department of Agriculture was established—that is six or seven years ago now—the general public jumped to the conclusion that our work ought to be carried on by the Department of Agriculture; they could see no necessity for maintaining two independent organisations. Most people thought that this was work which ought to be done by the Department itself, but for two reasons, and various others, it was found more desirable that the work should be done through an association already in existence which had some experience of the work and was to some extent in receipt of subscriptions from the societies it had formed. May I just elaborate that for a moment? It is quite clear that if the Department were to take up this work neither the societies which it formed nor the public

* See Appendix to Third Report of the Commission [3414, 1907], pp. 35-45.

who believe in co-operative methods would subscribe anything. They would say, "The Government find the whole of this work, let the Government find the whole of the funds." We were in receipt of a considerable income; it is not as large as it was, but, at the same time, it is a considerable amount.

21287. From what sources?—From individuals and societies, and in addition to that we get what is even more valuable; we get a great deal of volunteer work done for us by people who in various parts of the country take up local organisation and give it a helping hand, and that enriches the Society of expense.

21288. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do I understand that the 681 societies which were in existence in 1906, having been started by your Society, are now absolutely managing themselves and running themselves, requiring no further assistance?—I will not say that they require no further assistance; they require advice and they keep corresponding with us; if any question crops up which they do not understand they ask us to tell them how to deal with it. But beyond that they want no help. For instance, they do not want any capital, and they do not want much instruction in business methods.

21289. If you send down officers to advise on any point, do the societies pay the expense or do you?—In some cases they do, but in other cases, particularly where the emergency is not due to any fault of the Society we would not think of making any charge, but would consider it our duty to help them out of their difficulties.

21290. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—You will refer later to the organisation of credit societies, I suppose?—Not so much to them, because I find that that subject has already been dealt with at considerable length by Mr. Russell. But, of course, if the Commissioners wish to ask any questions to supplement Mr. Russell's evidence—

21291. I personally do not wish to—If the Irish people have hitherto looked too much to Government help, it was because they had no other means of meeting acute and constantly recurring distress. Under new conditions, when their farms are enlarged, if the system of co-operative credit is extended, and co-operative societies for the improvement and sale of produce be established, the people will quickly realise how much more they can do for themselves to establish a comfortable and stable condition of life than the Government can do for them. They will soon have within each community the means of meeting with occasional distress without the necessity of looking for outside help. I would go further and say, that if a system of co-operation is not introduced into congested communities where farms are enlarged, the mere giving of more land is not likely to permanently solve their difficulties. Land in of no use without capital to work it, and, especially in these days of competition, without the means at hand of tilling their land to the best advantage in the cheapest way, and of selling their produce in the best markets. To my mind, when land is given towards the relief of a congested community, organisation on co-operative lines will be absolutely essential to permanent success. The form of co-operative society best suited to the conditions is, in my judgment, the credit society to finance the farmer, and a "general purposes society" to supply them with good and cheap manures and seeds, and for the sale of produce. The inhabitants of the Congested Districts are peculiarly suited to co-operative organisation; they possess to a far higher degree those qualities which are essential to successful co-operation than do the more prosperous communities amidst which the major portion of the Society's work has been carried on. There is no bond to the charity of the poor or to their kindness to each other in times of distress, and as distress is ever with them or near them, this quality has been developed to a degree far beyond that to be found in the more prosperous parts of Ireland where independence has too often bred selfishness. This constant staring hunger and misery in the face has forced these poor people to adopt many primitive forms of co-operation which need but organisation to be given a permanent and practical shape. Nowhere in Ireland is the success of the Raiffeisen Bank more marked than in the Congested Districts; and, in such places in those districts as we have been able to start creameries and agricultural societies, their benefit to the people has been immeasurably greater than in other parts of Ireland. I trust I have not elaborated this portion of my evidence at too great a length, but

I wished, as the officer responsible for the work of the Society, to make it very clear to the Commission that while the difficulties of co-operative organisation in congested districts are great, the possibilities are even greater. I will now endeavour to set forth in detail certain proposals for the extension of co-operative organisation in the area under review, with the object of bringing that portion of Ireland, as far as may be possible, into line with the rest of the country. Before doing so, I may perhaps be permitted to say that I have carefully studied the evidence given to the Commission by Mr. George Russell, and that I am in entire agreement with his statements. Mr. Russell has had charge of that portion of our work which deals with co-operative credit, and I note that he has referred all questions dealing with the more commercial forms of co-operation to me. In view of the well-known opposition among the trading community to co-operation in all its forms, I may perhaps here state that the Society has never attacked trade interests except where it had to defend the farming interest.

21292. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—May I ask you where those attacks were made? What attacks do you refer to?—Attacks by public bodies, attacks in the Press and at public meetings, and attacks of another description. For example, I could recall to mind many cases where people were deterred from joining themselves into societies because a trader to whom they were indebted threatened to press them for payment of the debt due to him if they persisted in joining.

21293. All I wished to point out was that there was no attack made upon you before us—I did not suggest that attacks were made before this Commission, but we are only too painfully conscious of the attacks in Ireland. I will refer to them later.

21294. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think we may almost assume that a private trader will attack any experiment which takes custom away from him and reduces prices.

21295. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But my difficulty is that our record will be used on one side, and on one side only—I think I will be able to show the Commission that, instead of injuring the trader, co-operation, within the limits which we prescribe for these small farmers, is a great benefit to the farmers and an indirect benefit to the trader himself.

21296. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—You have already told us that the major part of the funds of the Society is derived from a subsidy granted by the Department of Agriculture?—That is so.

21297. That is practically State money?—Yes.

21298. And now you tell us that you always range yourselves on the side of the producer. Has it been brought against you, or has any hostile feeling been aroused by the fact that State money is applied through your organisation for taking sides, and that is always on one side?—We are only concerned for the improvement of the methods of production and increasing the volume of production, we are not concerned for the interest of the trader, who are, speaking generally, able to take care of themselves. In the Congested Districts the trader is at present in a far stronger position than in more progressive communities. In some cases his power is not greatly abused, in others he holds the community in bondage. He often increases in wealth while the people disappear and decay. Co-operation, therefore, will in the districts most with most than the normal opposition at the hands of the trader. I agree with Sir Horace Plunkett that the opposition is mistaken from the trader's point of view. I should like to say that in cases where we have established creameries in towns in or near Congested Districts the traders in those towns have come to recognise the creameries as most valuable institutions. It enables people to pay more promptly for the goods they buy and to become much larger and more varied consumers, and it has the effect of improving the trade of those towns very materially. The Commission will bear in mind that in some country towns in Ireland where perhaps a dozen shopkeepers are engaged in selling seeds and manures each man does not do a sufficient volume of trade to make it worth his while to continue the business.

21299. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The dairyman does not come into competition?—The dairyman does not come into conflict with the farmer and the creameries because there are none in these districts in Ireland in the ordinary sense.

Feb. 21, 1907.

Mr. R. A. Anderson.

Feb. 21, 1907.

Mr. R. A.
Anderson.

21300. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Every farmer is a dairy-man himself?—Yes.

21301. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—With the seed and manure merchant it is different?—It is different with him. He would oppose the starting of any Society. I wish it to be clearly understood that the L.A.O.S. does not concern itself for the organisation of societies for purposes other than the co-operative sale of produce and the supply of what we call "raw materials and implements of the agricultural industry." Ordinary shopkeeping does not come into its programme, as this form of trading is generally too complicated to be undertaken co-operatively by farming communities. But, as regards the sale of produce, the L.A.O.S. seeks to substitute for the present system of barter for shop goods a system whereby produce may be collected, graded, bulked, and put upon the market in such manner as will realise the highest price.

21302. Is the system of barter still prevalent in Ireland?—Very, along the western seaboard and in other parts.

21303. How does it proceed?—It is done very largely in connection with eggs and butter. The trader will send out carts to collect eggs and butter from the people and sometimes other kinds of produce, and, in exchange, instead of money, are given parcels of tea, sugar, and other groceries.

21304. From the carts?—Yes.

21305. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They take these goods out in the carts on a decoy?—They say to the woman who has got nothing but eggs to sell, "Eggs are sixpence per dozen today. Here is sixpence worth of tea." The trader takes the dozen eggs and gives in exchange the sixpence worth of tea. The trader, of course, makes two profits out of the transaction.

21306. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Does this system of barter still continue?—Yes.

21307. Is it more prevalent in the Congested Districts than in other districts?—It is more prevalent in the Congested Districts. I think it is rather on the increase.

21308. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The enterprise of these merchants is growing?—Yes.

21309. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Has it appeared in districts where it did not exist before?—It is in districts now where I never saw it before.

21310. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does the bartering include a great number of articles?—It is mainly restricted to eggs, butter, and poultry. Bartering in all these things is increasing, but not in other articles.

21311. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But it is being pushed with more vigour than it was?—Yes. It is being pushed more vigorously. As to the supply of agricultural requisites, the Society endeavours to classify and bulk the requirements of members through their local societies in the first instance, and, in the second place, to federate these societies for the bulk of their orders so as to procure for them such goods as they require at "bed rock" prices. The Society does not itself undertake these business transactions. They are undertaken by specially organised trade federations controlled by the societies.

21312. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Going back to the last point, you say the barter system is being pushed more energetically?—Yes.

21313. What is the cause of that?—I think that the competition between the shopkeepers is greater than it used to be. They are becoming more enterprising than they were in former years. I think it is due to that.

21314. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does not the competition between the shopkeepers induce them to give better terms to their customers?—Undoubtedly.

21315. They may say to the people with whom they barter, so and so will only pay just in tea, I will pay you in money?—I am afraid the competition does not take that form. It may take the form of giving a little more tea, but it does not take the form of the trader giving cash for goods.

21316. The Society does not concern itself with the organisation of societies for purposes other than the co-operative sale of produce. Does it control all the societies?—No. The scattered societies are in their turn federated with the central trade bodies in Dublin and elsewhere.

21317. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is this a convenient point at which to explain concerning these societies?—I will be dealing with these societies at the end of my statement. As matters stand, the "congest" sells his scanty produce in the worst market, while he buys his agricultural requisites and his necessities of life in a

market which is too dear for the rich to afford to deal in. The Co-operative Society at once changes all this, for it places him in a position to sell, for cash, to the greatest advantage, and purchase his requirements on precisely the same terms as the local trader enjoys.

21318. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What do you mean by "He buys his agricultural requisites and his necessities of life in a market which is too dear for the rich to afford to deal in"?—I mean that the average quality of the goods they get in the country do not warrant the prices charged for them. No cash purchaser would dream of buying those goods.

21319. The large farmers do not buy their goods in that way?—No; not the large ones, not the resident gentry.

21320. Generally speaking, the people do not deal in this small market unless they take goods on credit?—That is so.

21321. Sir JOHN COOKE.—I presume you have compared the prices charged for articles in country towns in Ireland with prices charged in the big centres, such as Belfast, Dublin, or Cork?—Yes.

21322. And have you found from comparison of these prices that even after allowing for railway carriage or passage the prices in these country towns are between 20 per cent. and 40 per cent. above the prices you get the articles for by sending for them to the big centres?—Yes. I have found that.

21323. Is it not the case that there is this peculiar characteristic which prevents competition between the traders affecting prices to the consumer. The people get in debt to the shopkeeper, and it is the general policy of the shopkeeper to keep them in debt to him in order to secure their custom?—That is undoubtedly the case. When a man becomes indebted to the shopkeeper it is in the shopkeeper's interest to always have a balance standing against him in his books for two reasons, firstly, because it secures continuance of his trade, and, secondly, because the man who is indebted to the shopkeeper cannot criticise the goods he buys in the same way as the man who buys for cash.

21324. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How extensive do you think that practice is—is it a general rule?—I am afraid it is general. It really exists all along the western seaboard.

21325. Is the poorer Congested Districts you say the general rule is that immediately the holder becomes indebted to the shopkeeper he suffers the disadvantages you have just described?—I am convinced of it. I think the cases where the small holder in the West of Ireland is free from debt to the shopkeeper are very rare indeed.

21326. That is the result of your own investigation and your knowledge of the people?—Yes.

21327. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You have described to us the method by which people come into a shop and take goods on credit. When they have nothing to barter for the tea they want they get the tea on credit?—Yes. A great deal of those migratory labourers are compelled to run up bills with the shopkeepers until the labourer returns home with money to pay for the goods. That is very common.

21328. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Have you ever considered the extreme difficulty, due to the difference of the law between England and Ireland, in respect of Irish tenants getting clear of debt through the operation of the Bankruptcy Act. In England a man can get clear by this means, because the Act is simple and inexpensive, but in Ireland the small man has no chance of ever getting clear, because the law is so enormously expensive and so complicated?—No, I have never considered it from that point of view, but I think it is the last shift of an Irish peasant to go into the Bankruptcy Court. He would almost as soon go to the workhouse as go to the Bankruptcy Court.

21329. You have not yourself studied the matter so minutely as to be able to say whether it is really merely a question of sentiment?—It is considered in Ireland a very disgraceful thing for a man to be adjudged a bankrupt.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They have not got the same fine feelings about owing money and getting into debt.

21330. Sir JOHN COOKE.—In the case of a man who gets into difficulties and has an overweight of debt the loss of freedom of that individual is continued and complete because he has no means of escape from that accumulation of debt by any simple or cheap process of law?—Yes; that is so. I believe co-operative organisation in congested districts—indeed anywhere—will succeed best if it is founded upon a sound system of co-operative credit, and for the

people in these districts the Raiffeisen Bank seems admirably suited. But credit by itself is not sufficient. The individual must have created for himself a machinery whereby he may sell and buy all that relates to his farm. To explain precisely what I mean, I would propose in the first instance the formation in every parish of a Raiffeisen Bank and as soon as practicable afterwards a "general purpose society," which would build, grade, and sell the members' eggs, butter, honey, fruit and vegetables, or any other kind of produce raised by them.

21332. Mr. RUTHERFORD.—Is the term Raiffeisen Bank accurate?—Yes.

21333. Is it not a modification of the system that you use?—No. They are practically identical with the Raiffeisen Banks in Germany.

21334. They are not carried on solely by co-operative credit in Ireland?—They are subsidised?—They are not subsidised in any way. They have money lent to them, but there is no grant towards working expenses.

21335. Mr. KAYE.—They pay full interest on the money lent to them?—They pay full interest on what they borrow.

21336. You are aware, I suppose, that is not the case in Germany. They get no grant of any kind?—When I describe them as Raiffeisen Banks I do not think the source from which the money is secured is of so much importance as the rules under which the societies work. The rules governing all the banks in Ireland are exactly the same as adopted by the banks in Germany and were based on them. They would enable the member to purchase artificial manures, farm seeds, feeding stuffs, spraying material and machinery, sheep dipping material and apparatus, fishing gear and farm implements. Such a society would also enable its members to procure certain of the more expensive kinds of farm machines to be used co-operatively by its members. Another function of such a society would be to introduce improved breeds of live stock. A further type of society which would be of the greatest benefit to small farmers would be one for the mutual insurance of live stock. The society has prepared the necessary rules and forms for such societies, but until a system of re-insurance is devised to average and equalise the risks of the several societies, it would be inadvisable to embark on this form of organisation. As the need for live stock insurance is very great, the provision of a re-insuring body would necessarily form part of any scheme for general co-operative organisation which may be determined upon.

21337. Mr. SERRAVALLO.—Will you kindly explain what you mean by the re-insuring?—I take a concrete case. A society is started for the insurance of its members' live stock. The mortality rate is calculated at 3 per cent. on the insured value. It rises to 5 per cent., and the society becomes bankrupt that year. If, on the other hand, societies were associated and pooled their premiums, then you could average the risks, and if one society exceeded the normal death-rate others might be below it, and you could keep the whole thing going without any particular society breaking down.

21338. You establish another one behind it in order to support it?—It is what you might describe as an underwriting body.

21339. But are there societies in Ireland for the insurance of live stock?—We have registered one, but it has done nothing so far, and I think it cannot do anything until we have provided some means of re-insuring to average and equalise risks.

21340. Your society has prepared rules and forms for such societies?—Yes, but unfortunately we have not got the funds.

21341. Would an insurance company not undertake this insurance?—I do not think an insurance company would. Possibly Lloyd's might do it but we have not a branch of Lloyd's in Ireland. At one of the recent meetings of the Council of Agriculture in Ireland a resolution was passed asking that the Department of Agriculture should take steps to underwrite the risks of live stock insurance societies.

21342. To be formed in Ireland?—Yes; I do think myself that if such a body as I have mentioned was formed, and those societies were sufficiently numerous, given an average normal death rate, the claims on the insuring body would not be very large.

21343. Supposing, on the other hand, you had one ordinary insurance society, might not that serve for

all Ireland?—It might, but a company of that kind would have its shareholders and would look for dividends, and the rates which the society would charge would probably be higher than the farmer could afford to pay. At present you cannot insure live stock in any of the insurance companies under five, six, or seven per cent., and that it is quite beyond the farmers' means, but a farmer whose resources exist, such as I have referred to as of benefit to small farmers, could insure his cattle on payment of a premium at the rate of 2 per cent., or possibly a trifle more.

21344. You speak of co-operative societies?—Yes, mutual, and the way such societies are worked is this. Supposing the death-rate of any society reached something more than 3 per cent. in any year, the following year the premium is made slightly higher, and the loss is made good in that way.

21345. In any particular society?—Yes. Meanwhile, however, in order to tide that society over its loss the re-insuring body comes to its rescue. On the other hand, if the death-rate falls below what was estimated, that money is carried forward to be used in reduction of premiums or discharge of claims in future years.

21346. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would that not mean the subsidising of all those societies?—It would merely mean pooling their business. Assuming that such a scheme may be approved, I shall now endeavour to indicate how the work would be carried out by the society if, as I suppose, that body would be employed for the purpose. The society maintains a staff of thoroughly competent and qualified organisers, several of whom are first Gaelic speakers, and familiar with agricultural and general economic conditions all over Ireland. Each organiser is allotted a district, and is made responsible for all co-operative organisation in that district. His duties are to explain the principles of co-operation and to demonstrate how they may be applied in practice by the people in any locality where it is found desirable and possible to start a society, to keep in touch with existing societies, attending their business meetings when necessary, and generally advising them as to the conduct of their affairs. It is also the business of the organiser to keep societies in his district in touch with each other by means of local conferences and in touch with the parent body in Dublin. Neither the society nor the organisers accept any financial responsibility for the success or failure of societies; each society is a separate entity, controlled and managed solely by its own members, and financed either directly by them, by shares or deposit capital, or indirectly by a joint stock bank on the security of its committee or by the Department of Agriculture or the Organized Districts Board. The Central society gives nothing but advice. Were it otherwise the societies would be tempted to leave all the responsibility on the society, and would cease to be co-operative. All applications for the establishment of new societies are dealt with at the central office, and in consultation with the local organisers. When such an application is approved, the organiser is instructed to attend a preliminary meeting which is convened by poster or circular. The people are prepared for this meeting by the dissemination of leaflets or pamphlets dealing with the particular type of society it is proposed to form. The organiser supplements the information contained in the leaflets and at the conclusion of his address invites questions by those present. Judging by my own experience, he is usually well "hooked," but as he knows his subject he generally succeeds in convincing every person except those who attend the meeting to oppose the scheme.

21347. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you not find, in fact, that the number of advisers and organisers of different interests, and different departments, has become so large as to confuse and distract the tenants. From the evidence we have had, it appears to me that the Irish small tenant needs more a moment's rest given him. The moment one organiser is out of his cabin, two more are waiting at the door to advise him to do something else, and although I admit each one of them may give him good advice, the effect produced on my mind from what we have heard is that though they have the best intentions, they become so numerous as to be necessarily very confusing to the tenants?—The functions of our organisers and those of the Department of Agriculture are so different that confusion between their duties no longer exists in the minds of the people. Unquestionably there was

Feb. 21, 1907.

Mr. H. A. Anderson.

Feb. 21, 1907.

Mr. S. A. Anderson.

a confusion at the time the Department started, and when we had not arranged our scheme of work so well as we have now. We break the ground for the Department in organising the people into societies, and we always try to prevent any confusion by explaining we are not the Department of Agriculture. I think they understand it now.

2333. From your experience is there any particular danger of confusion?—I should not say there is now.

2334. Do you find when you are going round that the people are confused by the different sources from which advice as to the management of business reaches them?—No, because the advice does not clash. It is on different subjects.

2335. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You won't say from your own experience, and the experience of the different gentlemen for whom you speak, that they did not find that the thing was carried a little too far?—We are getting over the difficulty very much more quickly than we thought we could. We give each of our organisers a district. He becomes very well known in the district after a while; I don't say known to everybody, but known to everybody connected with the societies with whom he has to do business, and there is no danger of confusing his individuality or business with those of other persons. As I said before, the duties of our officials are so very clearly defined that unless people made up their minds to misunderstand what we were doing they could hardly do so.

2336. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You have now a subsidy from the Department of Agriculture?—Yes.

2337. What work are you going to carry on with that?—We don't propose to make any change in the nature of our work, but to extend it more than before. It is the same kind of work with this difference. Before the Department was created we had, in addition to introducing co-operative organisation, to supplement it by giving technical instruction and advice. Now it is no longer necessary for us to do that, because all that has been taken over by the Department of Agriculture.

2338. Then you are merely going to carry on the same kind of work with the funds of the Department that you did before?—Precisely. The same work that we did before. Where opposition is shown, it rarely takes the form of a frontal attack on the co-operative principle. It has become the fashion of those who oppose the society to say, "We are in favour of 'true co-operation,' but this is not the real thing; it is a landlord's dodge to get more rent, or a higher price for his land; it is a political move to distract the minds of the people from Home Rule; it is an attempt to enrich the farmer by robbing the shopkeeper, or if it aims at some of these things, its sole object is to maintain a staff of organisers and officials. It must be so, for nobody ever did anything for nothing in Ireland." Hundreds of times have I had to answer such objections as these, and as a certain section of the Irish Press sedulously fosters these ideas, our organisers are not almost everywhere with the same points which are trotted out one after another by men who are not farmers, who cannot, if they are intelligent, believe in the truth of what they say, but who fear that the co-operative movement will bring to the struggling farming community of Ireland freedom from extortion and rapacity. The best replies to these attacks will be found in the opinions expressed by the societies themselves in the printed resolutions which have been embodied in the last report of the society. I have dwelt on this opposition at some length, for it is a very real factor in increasing the cost of organisation. I can imagine how rapid our progress might have been if every Irish member of Parliament had lent his powerful aid in his constituency in promoting the co-operative movement. Most of this opposition, besides being dishonest, is unwarranted by the facts, for, taking it all round, the co-operative movement, by increasing the revenue of the farmer, has enabled him to spend more and to pay more promptly, and the shopkeeper has thereby benefited. But, even were it not so, the ordinary trader was neither in a position to reach the best markets with any produce which he handled, nor was he qualified as an efficient distributor of seeds, manures, or feeding stuffs by reason of the fact that except in rare cases he had no special knowledge of this branch of business, and merely sold what he himself bought without question, but with each profit added on as he could induce his customer to pay.

Thus seeds were bought by him and sold to the farmer with never a word as to germination and purity; the provisions of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act were a dead letter, and wholly unsuitable manures were sold at prices far beyond their value. Traders have sold me again and again their wares to long credit and had debts this business did not pay them; moreover, the number of persons engaged in the trade was out of all proportion to its volume and it was only taken up as an adjunct to other business. Thus being so, it is difficult to understand the reason for all this outcry against co-operation by the traders, unless it is because they fear that the co-operative societies will take up the supply of household goods to their members. This the society has never advocated or encouraged, but as the societies are perfectly free to do so if they choose, the traders would be well advised to reconsider their present attitude of hostility.

2339. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I shall ask you for an explanation of this. You have stated that this is a very bad paying trade. You have been told over and over again that it does not pay, but you go on to say that the number of persons engaged in the trade was out of all proportion to its volume. This needs some explanation. The number of people taking up a trade generally reduces, instead of increasing, when it does not pay?—The ordinary shopkeeper has his clientele as distinguished from stray customers. He hates to see any of his customers go past his door for anything, and even though certain things do not pay him he stocks them.

2340. He holds that indirectly it will pay him?—I suppose indirectly. The Commission will, I hope, excuse this digression, but it is of great importance that the policy of the society towards traders should be made perfectly clear. To return to the organisation of a "General Purposes Society," I assumed for my present purpose that the society had commenced with a preliminary meeting. The next step would be for a provisional committee to canvass for shares. The shares are £1 nominal value, and usually £2, but sometimes £3, 6d. per share is paid on application, while further calls may from time to time be made as required. The number of shares held is usually regulated by the poor law valuation of the member's holding, or, in the case of creameries, by the number of cows his holding will carry. The liability of the member is limited to the amount of his shares. Generally speaking, the share capital does not suffice to adequately equip the society with funds, and in order to supplement it, the committee of the society give a joint and several guarantee for the amount of the extra capital required by the society to the nearest branch of a joint stock bank, in which they have previously opened an account.

2341. When you say the liability of a member is limited to his share, does that mean the fully paid up share?—If a man takes a £1 share and pays up 5s. he is liable for the 15s. balance?—Yes. The banks permit a society so guaranteed to overdraw its account to the extent of the guarantee, and charges a fixed rate of 4 per cent. for the amount so overdrawn, the interest being calculated from day to day.

2342. Is that interest permanent?—Yes. It is a special concession given to our Society.

2343. It does not fluctuate with bank-rates?—It does not. The weak points in this otherwise satisfactory method of finance are that the ordinary members are liable only to the extent of the uncalled portion of their shares, while the members of the Committee are liable individually and collectively for the entire amount borrowed from the bank. This fact is apt to deter men of substance from becoming guarantors, as they know that in case the bank has to call up the advance, they would naturally be selected as being the best marks. On the other hand, this heavy responsibility assumed by the guarantors ensures more careful management than would be likely were each member of the Society to be liable only for a pro rata share of the debts. Interest is paid on share capital at the popular rate of one penny per £ per month—five per cent.

2344. I suppose the guarantors are strongly represented on the Committee?—They are nearly all members of the Committee. Then another provision is that persons cannot be removed from the Committee as long as they are guarantors unless persons are found to take their places.

21360. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—And take the responsibility?—And take the responsibility also. As I have briefly explained, the societies already formed are all independently incorporated bodies and each manages its own affairs. The Committee is selected by the members and the Manager and Secretary by the Committee. In consequence a regular salary is paid to the Manager, the remuneration varying from £1 to £3 a week, and sometimes even more.

21361. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are speaking of the General Purpose Society?—No; but of the kind of society we have started. The General Purpose Society is the society I recommend for the Congested Districts. This particular reference is to societies already in existence elsewhere.

21362. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Are there many General Purpose Societies formed?—There are societies which fulfil three or four functions, but there are no societies specially formed.

21363. I understood you were giving the Commission a sketch of how you would form a General Purpose Society?—But then I want to show you what remuneration the officials of societies generally get, and I differentiate between each class of society in this portion of my statement. The salary of a manager of a poultry and egg marketing society would range from £1 to £3.

21364. Is that £1 to £3 a week?—Yes. In societies whose business consists in purchasing manures and seeds, etc., for their members, the manager is generally paid by a percentage charged on the actual sales, to which is sometimes added a bonus on the profits. The members share between them any profit earned pro rata to the amount of each individual's trade with the society, but no cash payment is made until the outstanding balance on the shares has been paid up either in cash or calls or by the allocation of the dividends accruing from profits. In addition to organizing these societies, the Society provides them with proper forms of account books and instructs the managers and committees as to how their transactions should be recorded in those books so as to facilitate the annual audit which is required by the Act of Parliament. I have spoken of a "General Purpose Society" as being the most suitable for adoption by the people in Congested Districts. Elsewhere our experience shows us that it is exceedingly difficult to secure a harmonious blend of large with small farmers, of those mainly engaged in tillage with those who are chiefly dairymen and of farmers in general with labourers. In the Congested Districts, however, there are no such distinctions, except perhaps where there are fishermen as well as farmers, but then the fisheries is usually amorphous. In such a homogeneous community the "General Purpose Society" is decidedly the best provided that its business is de-centralized and separate accounts kept for each. Thus a society might operate a creamery under a de-centralized system of auxiliaries, of which I shall have a good deal to say later; it might also sell its members' poultry, eggs, honey, and other produce, and it might procure their agricultural requisites. All these branches of business fit in well with each other and may easily be supervised by one good manager, to whom a substantial salary can be paid. Where a society sells its members' produce, it may either act as a commission agent or as a merchant body; it acts altogether as an agent where it supplies them with agricultural goods. Where a member requires credit, and no credit society is available, the Committee may give reasonable time for payment to any member who can afford security. In such cases, five per cent. is added to the cash selling price of the goods, and as the Society can finance these operations through its bankers at four per cent., there is a small extra margin of profit on such transactions.

21365. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean five per cent. per annum?—Yes. We don't encourage credit, but if a man wants the things, and is honest and has good security, there is no reason why he should not get it. If you did not make the system rather elastic you would force the people to go to the shopkeepers, where he could get credit and have to pay a great deal more than the thing is worth. It must be always remembered that the people have not got enough money in their hand. They have not got the capital, and although we would desire to see them paying cash for everything, it is not practicable at this stage. We must begin by degrees and educate them up.

21366. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There is not enough money in circulation in the district?—No.

21367. What agencies are there? Are there banks?—There is hardly a town or even fair-sized village that has not got a branch of a joint stock bank, or sometimes two.

21368. Do they seem to do anything to encourage local industry?—I would not like to say that, because the banks have issued as very reasonably about the societies.

21369. They have a guarantee from you?—They have not got a better guarantee than they could get in other cases. I think Irish banks are always willing to help on any industry that is practicable in the country.

21370. If that is so you have a solution of the whole question so far as the financing of these things is concerned?—I think the tendency is to expect more from banks than as banks they have any right to give.

21371. There was not the slightest expression of opinion by any person before us that the local banks would do anything to encourage the fisheries of Ireland, yet they are the greatest engines we have for encouraging the fisheries in Scotland. They advance thousands and thousands every year to men who want boats?—I should say from my experience that you generally find the local bank manager always ready to take part as far as he can as a bank official in efforts for the promotion of any local industry. You will generally find his directors behind him.

21372. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is it the case that they are prepared to give credit on security which other bankers would rather shy at?—The Irish banker is rather conservative. He safeguards his shareholders well.

21373. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Has not it been your experience that the facilities for borrowing from banks in Ireland are very much more lax and very much more free generally than the facilities given by banks in almost any other country in the world?—I have not had experience of banks in other countries. Certainly, I don't think that banks lend readily in Ireland. At all events, they don't make many losses.

21374. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They would not pay a man interest on an overdraft?—I have come across a case where a man had a very considerable amount of interest on deposit in the bank at one per cent., or whatever was the current rate, and when he wanted to pay his rent he borrowed a small sum to do so at six per cent.

21375. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Is not that very common?—I think so. The reason given in these cases is that if the man disturbed what he had in the bank he might not have the strength of mind to put it up again.

21376. He did not trust himself?—No.

21377. It is a very common thing?—Yes. To continue with my statement:—The societies which deal in eggs and poultry perform a very useful function for their members. In remote places in the West of Ireland it is of little benefit to people to improve the breeds of their poultry so as to produce better table fowl or larger eggs if they are not at the same time enabled to obtain their full market value. These improvements cost money, and they may be made profitable with good marketing facilities, but scarcely otherwise. The great market of the world is England; its buyers may pick and choose between a score of competing countries, all straining every nerve to secure the foremost place for their produce. In such a competition as this, the "Congest," individually, is nowhere; collectively, he may become a force. Our mild climate and our proximity to the great centres of distribution are in our favour. All that is needed is organisation. The medium operandi of a society dealing with this class of produce is this: It purchases its members' eggs by weight instead of by the dozen or score, thus giving those whose fowls produce large eggs their full value; it pays cash for them in contradistinction to the generally established custom of bartering groceries; it either collects or receives them frequently; it tests every egg for freshness; it grades them according to weight, it rejects all that are stale or dirty, and it packs them in such a manner as to attract buyers in Great Britain; it sells them under a distinctive National Trade Mark, which is already well known and appreciated on the markets, and it divides amongst its members, over and above the full market price which they receive at the time of supplying, whatever trading profit is realised on the ultimate sale. These operations have done much to revive the ailing and furnish regulation of the

Feb. 21, 1901.
Mr. E. A.
Anderson.

Irish egg at the other side, and they have also tended to sensibly increase the number and average weight of the egg produced here in Ireland.

21378. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say the Society sells the eggs with a distinctive national trade mark, do you mean that it is a general trade mark, or does it show that it came from a particular society?—It is a trade mark for all Ireland, which we registered so as to identify where the eggs came from, because we found that large quantities of Russian eggs were being brought into Belfast, were being packed there in Irish cases, and sent from Belfast to England to be sold as Irish eggs, and we found it necessary to register this national trade mark, which could not be mistaken.

21379. The national trade mark shows that it was laid in Ireland?—Yes, to show the origin of the egg.

21380. Not that it came from a particular society which has established a reputation?—No. Each society is designated by a number for reference.

21381. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—By proximity to great centres of distribution do you refer to Ireland generally or the congested districts?—I am talking of such places as London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Manchester, and so on. Centres of consumption might be a better phrase.

21382. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You don't hold, as we have heard from many persons, that the remote parts of Ireland are unable to get their products to the market because of the want of means of communication?—They are to some extent handicapped, but I don't think it is such a handicap as is popularly supposed. Organised producers can send their things together in quantity which will make it worth while to bring them to a railway station, but, of course, if each person brings his own small parcel it is exceedingly difficult. According to the statistics of exports and imports recently published by the Department of Agriculture, the value of the eggs and poultry exported from Ireland in 1904 was £2,800,000. There is no earthly doubt but that this source of national wealth could and would be at least doubled in a few years by organisation. For egg production, the Congested Districts are practically as well suited as anywhere else, and a doubled volume of production, coupled with an enhanced price, would very materially add to the wealth of the people. I may have said it is generally understood in Ireland that the produce of twenty hens is equal to the produce of one cow.

21383. You say that the congested districts are a good place for the production of eggs; but whether eggs are heavy depends largely on the hen being well fed?—It depends more on the breed of the hen.

21384. But she is not so good a mother unless she is well fed?—That is so. The successful production of table poultry is a rather more difficult matter, for all districts are not equally suitable. Moreover, the breeds which prove the best layers are not the best table birds, and so far no thoroughly satisfactory "general purpose" breed or cross has been evolved. But in almost all districts considerable numbers of geese, ducks, and turkeys are raised, and a fair market awaits them provided they have been properly fed, killed, plucked, trussed, and packed. "Cramming," or artificial fattening, is being carried on at three Co-operative Poultry Societies to a considerable extent, and in time it is hoped that suitable table fowl, fattened in Ireland, may command in the British markets as good prices as are now realised by the Surrey and Sussex fatteners, who at present buy large quantities of chickens in Ireland, and, having crammed them, sell them in London as "Surrey" or "Sussex" fowls.

21385. You allude to three co-operative poultry societies that go in for cramming?—Yes, but it is very difficult to get into the London markets with the Irish crammed fowls, Surrey and Sussex fowls have such a hold in the market there. London is one of the most difficult markets to get into. We are trying to make a beginning by capturing markets in some of the smaller towns where competition is less keen and where we are doing a great deal better than in London with the produce of these societies.

21386. On the merits, do they turn out really good fat fowl?—They turn out first-rate fowl in these three places.

21387. Can you tell me the prices at which they turn them out?—I could not offhand, but I could get the information for the Commission. In each of these

societies they have an expert fatteners who has been thoroughly trained in his business and understands the requirements of the trade.

21388. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—They cannot undertake Surrey and Sussex crammed fowl and make a profit?—The margin of profit on cramming is not so great as is popularly supposed.

21389. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—There must be a considerable market in Ireland for fatted fowls?—Not this particular kind of heavy fatted fowls. They are more sought by hotels and restaurants. In Ireland the people prefer a smaller bird than that which is usually sold in London. One great lesson that our people need to learn and take to heart is that to produce in great quantities eggs and chickens at seasons when the markets are glutted and to produce scarcely any when the markets are bare is uneconomical and wasteful. More attention to hatching in the right season, to proper housing and feeding, would speedily bring about a more uniform supply all the year round, and the slight extra trouble would be amply repaid by the price realised. I may just add that the societies, as far as possible, purchase the poultry, as in the case of eggs, by weight, but, of course, the quality of the bird has also to be taken into account.

21390. Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—Is it or is it not the case that the dampness of climate is unfavourable to the fowl industry?—Yes, to the production of chickens, but not so much as the production of eggs. I now come to a very important branch of industry which enters considerably into the economies of the Congested Districts—dairying. By dairying I do not mean the production by slow degrees of a lump of grease by each farmer—called by courtesy butter—but the production of milk, the surplus of which, after having provided for the wants of the household, may, by a little skill and care, be converted into a really saleable article, marketable at a remunerative price. Having suffered many seasons in trying to coalesce "crammed butter," and having some slight knowledge of the butter-making industry, I can say with confidence that a modification of the creamery system carried on elsewhere in Ireland would prove a great boon to the people whose conditions this Commission desires to improve. Whether we like it or not, it may be taken for granted that the home butter-making industry as a business is doomed; and as a pastime it has nothing to recommend it. The consumer is too well catered for and has grown too fastidious to enjoy the surplus which he is asked for anyone who may call "crammed butter." Its variety soon loses its charm, and the consumer resorts to the product of the creamery, which, in season and out of season, maintains a high level of good quality. As we cannot change the taste of the consumer and as the profits at the industry depend upon his patronage, it follows that our butter makers must conform to the demands of "a market which knows no sentiment, but simply obeys, with clockwork regularity, the law of demand and supply." The owner of one or two cows can only obtain access to such markets by associating himself with several others similarly circumstanced. They join forces and combine to buy a hand separator or one driven by a pony. A daughter of one of the associated families obtains instruction in modern dairying, and acts as dairymaid for the township. The milk is brought to her house, where the separator is installed, and is sampled and separated. Those who bring their milk also bring their eggs, their honey, and their poultry. On the completion of the separating process the partners in this little township undertaking return to their homes with their separated milk, to be used for calf, pig, and poultry feeding, as well as for domestic purposes. The township dairymaid brings or sends the unified product of cream, eggs, poultry, and honey to the "General Purpose Society," where it is prepared for market and the returns in due course are made in cash through each township collector.

21391. Is this a picture, a fresh and picture, of what might be, or a description of what is going on?—It is intended for what might be. It is true that this entails expense—considerable expense—it also entails punctuality of delivery. But, while the expense and trouble are probably greater than have to be borne by larger producers, the margin of profit in the case of the small producer is far in excess of that of the farmer on a large scale.

21392. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is that correct?—The margin of waste it would be more correct to say. The difference between what he gets and what he might

get in the case of a small producer is greater. I will give you some figures directly to show what I mean. The large farmer produces in considerable volume, and, even without the aid of co-operation, he can realise a fair price for his output. As "congested butter" usually sells at from 2d. to 3d. per lb. below what other butter fetches, there is ample margin for extra profit, even after paying all the expenses entailed by handling small quantities. This is my simple scheme for a "General Purposes Society" and its twofold ramifications. The Commission may be in doubt as to how a "General Purposes Society" could get into the markets at the other side, so I think it right to say here that the marketing problem has been already solved by the establishment of trade federations of such societies which are prepared to sell all produce entrusted to them as a small commission sufficient to cover their working expenses and pay a dividend on their capital. These federations, moreover, guarantee those societies which are their members against bad debts.

21363. Where are these societies?—Dublin and Limerick are their two centres. They have got several depots at the British side.

21364. That is where your General Purpose Society would forward its butter?—Yes.

21365. And they in turn would look to the English markets?—Yes.

21366. And the Irish town markets?—They would sell it in both Dublin and Belfast, and also on the Irish side.

21367. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Is there a growth in the usage of these trade federations by the farmers?—Yes.

21368. Business is increasing?—Yes, steadily increasing.

21369. Could you give us any table or statement to enable the Commission to judge of the growth that exists?—Straight off I could not give any figures.

21370. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The number of societies?—No, because the business done through the federation has not grown at the same rate as the societies have grown, and the reason is that since the societies have started competition for the product has grown. Competition is so keen for the produce of these creameries that the societies can find more outlets than before.

21400. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would you say that an ordinary well-conducted creamery can always sell all the creamery butter that it can turn out?—Yes, without any difficulty whatever. There seems to be a general feeling that the "congested" cannot live by farming alone. In this I am, from my knowledge of the country, inclined to agree, but it is extremely difficult to suggest any form of industry unconnected with the land, which with any reasonable prospect of success could be embarked upon in the congested districts. The best of the population emigrate, the remaining statements, in many cases, migrate, and few are left except the very old and the very young. Some of the ideas I have outlined might, if acted upon, retain in profitable labour the employment of a certain number of migrants; there are also possibilities in the land itself which might tend in that direction. For example, flax, of the very finest quality, has been grown, and is being grown in the Ballina and Killybeg districts; early potatoes have been successfully grown in Aran and in West Cork. I have seen myself in Aran, growing in the open air, spring flowers which elsewhere in Ireland at that season required the protection of glass, and for which there was a good demand in our home markets. Bee-keeping is practically undeveloped, though heather honey, which fetches the highest price, might be produced by the ton in every western county in Ireland. Such home industries as lace and crochet-making have been established in connection with societies by the society, and while this branch of work is at present somewhat overdone, it is certain that really good work of this sort might be counted on as a source of considerable income.

21401. What do you mean by saying that this branch of work is overdone—do you mean that producers cannot get rid of the output?—There is what is called a "slump" in the market in crochet at present. Another thing is that unfortunately in a number of these societies the work is not as well done as it might be. They turn out a good deal of inferior work for which they expect to get a high price, and when it goes to market they are very much disappointed because it brings only an inferior price.

21402. You speak of that from your own knowledge?—Yes.

21403. It is not quite consistent with evidence we have had on the subject. Some of the work of these lace and crochet workers is, you say, not up to the standard and does not get the highest price?—Yes; and low class crochet and lace work finds a very dangerous competitor in the machine-made article. Only the high-class lace and crochet ought to be encouraged. To a people on the verge of starvation, living on insufficient and miserable holdings, the idea of enlargement of farms is naturally popular. As the policy of enlarging holdings has been extensively adopted by the Congested Districts Board, I am unhesitating to put forward one or two considerations. Why not, when a suitable grazing farm is available within reach of a co-operative society, adopt the simple, inexpensive and satisfactory system of selling, not to the society to be held as common grazing?—The experiment has been tried by the society, and has worked most satisfactorily. Several farms hitherto rented by graziers were rented by co-operative societies whose members' cattle were admitted to grazing at an agreed rate per head. The society employed a common herd and the grazing rents collected left a considerable margin for dividend over and above the rent of the farm. It is well known that cattle thrive far better when they have a wide range, as in these cases, than if they are confined to a restricted area.

21404. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—The experiment has been tried?—Yes.

21405. Cannot you give us any further particulars of where the experiment has been tried, what was the area, the number of cattle, the fees charged, and the amount of the receipts?—The two cases where it was pursued in connection with co-operative societies were at Killaruan and Tinsara, both in the County Roscommon.

21406. Are you speaking of societies formed under your auspices?—Yes, but not formed for the special purpose. The members of the society wanted additional grazing land. The neighbouring landlord let them these two large farms on which they put a herd, and then by arrangement put a certain number of cattle. The charge for these cattle was fixed in accordance with the ordinary grazing rates charged per head, and the men paid these rates. At the end of the year after paying the rent, which was a competition rent for these grazing farms, there was a very considerable margin of profit left. For one year, as far as I can recollect, they had about 2100 profit out of these two farms.

21407. Taking that particular case, could you hand in a statement showing the number of persons who formed the co-operative societies, the size of the holdings they took up, and the rent and the particulars of the charge, so that the Commissioners can understand the results of that concrete experiment?—Very well.

21408. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do they keep any accounts?—Yes.

21409. Could we see them?—I can easily get a full report on the experiment.

21410. You might do so, and, if possible, as to both cases?—Very well. There is a third case I might mention quite different from the ordinary case. It was the County Meath, where the richest grazing land in Ireland is to be found. Co-operative grazing was carried on quite successfully there, I think, under the direction of the president of our society, Colonel Everard. I think he could get particulars of it.

21411. It would be extremely interesting if we could get the audited accounts for those three experiments. You will let us know how long they have been running?—In one case I think they have stopped it, because the land was sold which they used to rent before. In the other case of Killaruan they are still going on. I am not quite sure whether they are going on in the County Meath. I don't wish to introduce a political question—and almost any question connected with land in Ireland has become political—but it is exceedingly difficult for co-operative societies to get at any of these farms because the chairman of the people who think they know better is to have those farms divided. We, from experience, hold it is quite wrong to divide these farms except in special cases, and that it is better to keep them as tracts of common grazing for the community and let them confine themselves to tilling their holdings.

Feb. 21, 1907.

Mr. R. A.
Anderson.

21412. Sir JOHN OSWALD.—In addition to the accounts and the other information that has been asked for I am very anxious to learn the size of the holdings of the members of the co-operative society engaged in the undertaking?—The size of the holdings of the members as well as the area they got?

21413. Yes, because it bears on the point of the necessity of the small holders for an outlet for their cattle?—Very well. I will get the fullest information possible about it. As regards the enlargement and improvement of holdings, I desire to say a few words. The report of the Small Holdings Committee declares in favour of co-operation. Its verdict is that agricultural co-operation is absolutely essential to a peasant proprietor. The peasant proprietor must be supplied with capital, he must be taught better methods, but when all this is done (and he can only be safely supplied with capital through co-operation) he will still need co-operative purchase and co-operative sale. In all the schemes I have seen for putting the occupying tenant in possession of his holding, I have seen no reference to any scheme of co-operation, and, in my opinion, without co-operation, he must fail. He is not educated like his foreign competitor, or he would adopt the system spontaneously; he must be led into it, and it is the plain duty of the society to do so. The country at large has recognised this necessity, and has through the Council of Agriculture decreed that it shall be done by the society, aided by funds from the Department. I propose at the end of this general statement, and subject to the pleasure of the Commission, to give evidence as to the working of certain co-operatives and agricultural societies in Congested Districts which were mentioned incidentally by Mr. George Russell, but not dealt with in his evidence. It is my hope that what I and others have said on the subject may convince this Commission of the utility of our work, and direct its findings towards a report so framed as to enable us to extend our operations in congested districts *pari passu* with those assisted in Ireland by the Department of Agriculture.

21414. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You quoted the report of the Small Holdings Committee. I presume that that is the committee which has recently reported?—Yes.

21415. And that committee had reference altogether to the small holdings created under the Act of Parliament passed several years ago?—In 1892.

21416. Is there any similarity between the holdings that were established under that Act and the holdings that are in existence in Ireland, so much as to justify you in saying that the same conditions might equally apply to both. You know the small extent of those holdings?—Yes, I do, but I think the productiveness of the English holding would be far greater than the productiveness of a very much larger holding in the congested districts.

21417. You know the very limited scope of that Act, the very few small holdings that have been created under it?—Yes. I have not read the Act itself, but in the report of the Commission I was very much struck by what they said because the conclusions the Committee came to were precisely the conclusions which we have come to in Ireland.

21418. Arguing from different circumstances altogether?—Quite so.

21419. Take, for instance, the holder in England. He would be a man entirely new to agriculture. He would not have had a holding before?—He might or might not.

21420. As a general rule, he would not?—I am not prepared to say that, because I do not know. I have never been on any of these small holdings in England.

21421. The point is while co-operation might or might not be a good thing, it does not follow of necessity, because it would apply in England, and to the circumstances there it would be equally applicable to Ireland?—We find in Ireland without co-operation that those people who get into large holdings have no capital to begin with, and no market for their produce, no market to buy their requirements in, and they lack in addition to that a great deal of necessary knowledge of ordinary business that we claim we can give them through these co-operative societies.

21422. They seem to be very helpless. Surely the experience of the Congested Districts Board in dealing with the Dillon Estate shows that the people are perfectly able to take care of their own affairs there. Don't you think so?—I know something about that

part of the world, and I should say that on the Dillon Estate they are as much in need of co-operation as any part of Ireland.

21423. But they are getting on?—They would go in for better if they had co-operative societies. The gentlemen who gave evidence on behalf of the Congested Districts Board themselves admit it, because they are anxious to extend the co-operative movements in those districts.

21424. I suppose that in Ireland it could not be so difficult to induce co-operation in as it was the old spirit of Irish life?—Yes. It is to some extent a revival of the old clan system.

21425. Sir JOHN OSWALD.—With reference to that theory as to co-operation being a sort of hereditary instinct, do you not find that a feature at all events in the western and southern peasant is his absolute mistrust of his neighbour as all matters of business?—Yes, we found that a very serious barrier indeed, but somehow or other—I don't want to claim more for our co-operative work than we are entitled to claim for it—this difficulty is disappearing. The mere fact of people meeting together to do business in common which they never did before, has done more to break down this barrier of mistrust and suspicion than anything else.

21426. Another characteristic is the difficulty of getting anybody even of the better class in Ireland to believe that any body can engage in public work without his being in a subterranean way working for his own advantage?—Yes.

21427. There is a total absence of belief in public spirit, and an assumption that what a man is trying to do in public matters is for private reasons?—Yes. A most striking example of that was Sir Horace Plunkett himself.

21428. Do you think if this co-operative spirit became widespread that that evil feeling would be likely to be mitigated?—I think it would disappear altogether. I base my answer on my own experience. In almost every case where a number of farmers came together to form a society, if the local landlord is at all a good business man they almost invariably try to get him to take the chair at their meeting, and become president of the society. It is a very satisfactory sign. We find that questions of religious or political difference don't prevent the members of our societies electing the best men on our committees. That is a very satisfactory result. Whether it is the result of our work or whether it is that more enlightenment and toleration are coming into the country I don't know.

21429. You mentioned that latterly portion of your society's income has been derived from a subsidy or grant by the Department of Agriculture. Might I ask you, without going into the amount of subsidy, was it given by the official side of the Department, or was the subsidy given and voted with the assent of the representative portion of the Central Council?—In the first instance, the first grant that was made to the Organisation Society was a grant of £2,000 for one year for organising agricultural banks, home industries societies, and live-stock insurance societies. That was made by the Agricultural Board, which is two-third elected and one-third nominated. The next grant that was made in aid of the objects of the society for a scheme of work which is just about to conclude now, was a sum of £3,500. That was also voted by the Agricultural Board. Then last May the whole question of carrying on co-operative organisations came before the Council of Agriculture. I must not forget Sir Horace Plunkett, who is going to explain to the Commission, but I have the resolution here which was adopted by the Council. The meeting unanimously declared itself in favour of promoting co-operation, and also that State funds should be spent in doing so; but they left to be decided the precise means to be employed for promoting co-operative organisations, whether it should be done directly by the Department of Agriculture or by County Councils, or indirectly through the Agricultural Organisation Society. Six months elapsed, and another meeting was held prior to which Sir Horace Plunkett had circulated a memorandum putting the case for the three alternatives before the Council. This resolution was adopted by a majority of two to one:—"This meeting of the Council, having regard to the unanimous resolution of the Council meeting of 16th May expressing the opinion that it is desirable that the Department should

promote agricultural organisation and provide the funds necessary for the purpose, recommends that the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, which is the only existing body having a special knowledge of this work, should be aided in carrying out an approved scheme of agricultural organisation subject to effective supervision of all expenditure in connection therewith by the Department, and that, with a view to stimulating contributions from societies and subscribers, and thus securing greater economy, as well as evoking a greater measure of local effort, the subsidy granted by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction should be in the form of a *pro rata* contribution." That is to say if we get so much from our friends the Department would contribute so much more. That resolution was adopted, and the Agricultural Board will meet next week to consider a scheme.

21430. Suppose you took from the members of the Council who passed the resolution the nominated members would there still have been a majority?—A clear majority of the elected members.

21431. Mr. STRECHERMAN.—Upon what section of the Act do you rely for the authority of the Department to do that?—I have not gone into that question, because I did not consider it was a matter that I could answer. I presume the Vice-President of the Department will give that information. I wish to give a few additional facts to supplement the evidence given by Mr. Russell. I notice he was questioned about a dairy society which was started in Donegal from which complaints were made to the Commission by Mr. Pearson. The facts about that case were rather unfortunate. I don't at all deny that we were to some extent responsible for the trouble that took place, but it certainly was not intentional on our part. Just at the time that that society was started in 1903 the people in that part of South Donegal were clamouring for dairy societies everywhere; it was almost impossible to prevent them starting societies in impossible places. In this particular case a society was started in Donegal in the belief that it would embrace auxiliary creameries working in connection with it at Inver and Killybegs. Both places started separate creameries on their own account. Meanwhile an adjoining creamery, which was working previously as an auxiliary, equipped itself as a creamery, throwing out auxiliaries within two miles of the latter. For this we could not be held responsible. We tried to lay down a line of demarcation between the two districts, so as to secure sufficient milk for the Donegal Creamery, but its competitors would not agree to that. Unfortunately the Donegal Society has been starved almost to the point of death. Whether we can save it by introducing other forms of co-operation, such as the egg industry, I don't know, but I am trying to think out a scheme for them. But as evidence was given before the Commission on the matter, I should say that the relations between the Donegal society and our society are now and have been perfectly friendly.

21432. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Would it be possible to get the Donegal company amalgamated with the others?—I am afraid it would be a case of mixing oil and water. There is jealousy between the districts. The number of creameries working in or in connection with congested districts is 33 altogether—6 in Donegal, 1 in Fermanagh, 8 in Kerry, 8 in Leitrim, 1 in Mayo, 3 in Roscommon, and 8 in Sligo. The total number of members of these societies is 7,260. The total trade turn-over in the last returns we have is £48,370. Then of agricultural societies, in Donegal there are 2, in Galway 2, in Mayo 22, in Sligo 2, or a total of 25. These have a membership of 4,003, and a trade turn-over of £10,071. Miscellaneous societies consisting of poultry societies, home industries societies, and flax societies, number 6, and have a membership of 436 and a trade turn-over of £2,446. Exclusive of credit societies in congested districts, there are 78 other societies with 11,717 members, and a trade turn-over of £107,330. I should like to give an instance of one of those societies. This is at Carradough.

21433. Is this an example or an exception?—This is given as an example. The chairman is Rev. John Doherty, priest of the parish. Last year—I have two balance-sheets—there was a turn-over of £1,865 by the creamery. They are working as an auxiliary to the creamery at the Lagan near Sallybrook. The

farmers received for their milk 3-04 pence per gallon. They produced from 27,606 gallons of milk 35,367 lbs. of butter. That was an average of one pound of butter to every 2-32 gallons of milk. Under the old plan they could have produced only 12½ for these gallons of milk. That would have reduced the butter output from 35,000 to 20,000 pounds. They received for this better 11-25 pence per pound. That is the wholesale price. Taking the value of the "congested" butter at eightpence, which is a very outside price, they could have realised on this basis 2-06 pence a gallon for their milk. That would have reduced the total amount which they received for their produce from £1,865 to £973, so they would have lost actually £893. Taking the produce of a cow at 400 gallons per annum, that would mean a difference, that is, a loss, of £1 19s. 6d. per cow if they had not had the creamery, and on the full turn-over of the society would have meant that £893 less money would have been received.

21434. Is that net profit or gross receipts?—Net receipts in so far as the creamery is concerned; but I am allowing nothing for working expenses to the farmer, whereas he could not have made and marketed his butter for nothing, whereas the full working expenses of the creamery are allowed in paying him the 3-04 pence per gallon. In addition to that, they paid off portion of their loan from the Congested Districts Board—they paid off £20; they paid off £49 8s. 6d. old debts; they reduced their bank overdraft from £197 to £124; they paid interest at 5 per cent. on their shares, and allowed a full amount for depreciation of their plant and buildings, and earned forward £38 12s. 9d. This is very satisfactory as showing what has been done in a very poor district.

21435. What is important about that in this—it would be extremely interesting and important if that is an example of what is done generally by co-operative creameries in the West of Ireland. May I take it from you that in your opinion that is a fair example?—There are much better ones than that. It is a fair example of a district of the kind.

21436. You are of opinion that these creameries could be largely extended in number?—Yes, if some such system as I suggested in my general purposes society were adopted, but in most of the congested districts the cows are so few and far between that the collection of milk would be a matter of very great expense. At the same time the people are selling their butter at 5d. per lb. and it is possible to get 11½d. for it, and there is a good margin there to pay for carting and other working expenses.

21437. That brings me to a question I was going to ask you. Take a district where the people are widely scattered, would it be possible to expect men with one or two cows to carry their milk to some rather distant centre where the creamery was?—No; they would not do it.

21438. Do you go so far as to say that in the extremely poor western sea coast holdings creameries are practically not possible?—I am afraid they are not possible. Under my General Purpose Society plan they might be possible if you had hand separators and worked your auxiliaries in a smaller area, because in the West of Ireland the roads are exceedingly bad and you have got to bring each man's milk separately to the creamery. Otherwise you cannot test it. You cannot mix it up in a vat in the cart, or if you did you would fail to test the milk separately for each man, which is the basis of the dealing.

21439. The advantages you are holding out for these co-operative creameries really applied only to creameries in inland comparatively well-to-do places?—Yes. The worst congested districts could not possibly support creameries in any circumstances.

21440. You would not put creameries forward as one of the additional factors which might be brought into play to mitigate the poverty of the extremely poor congested places?—I would not. I am afraid the thing would be impracticable.

21441. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—The same principle applies in a more modest form to the hand separator, the one house being selected for the work of a small district, and the picture you gave us would be possible of realisation in certain districts?—Yes, but not in the very worst.

21442. What strikes me is that in the very worst there are no cows?—Yes; no cows.

21443. I see that the price of the butter alone in Carradough was more than the total valuation of

Feb. 21, 1907.
Mr. R. A.
Anderson.

Feb. 22, 1907.

Mr. R. A.
Anderson.

the land, buildings, and everything in the Carnedonagh electoral division?—Yes.

21444. Obviously the operations of the creamery are not confined to that particular electoral division?—No.

21445. But still it does show the high proportion butter bears in relation to valuation where the butter industry is properly worked on co-operative principles?—If to this butter-making industry had been added in the case of this society the sale of eggs the figure might have been doubled, because in my experience of districts like Carnedonagh the production of eggs added in the case of this society the sale of eggs the figure might have been doubled, because in my experience of districts like Carnedonagh the production of eggs runs the production of butter very close if it does not amount to more. Recent statistics show that the total export of poultry and eggs taken together ran the total value of the butter exports very close. The value of the butter exported from Ireland in 1904 was £3,220,000 and that of the eggs and poultry £2,830,000, which was only a difference of £400,000. In Ireland the value of the eggs consumed must be

considerably in excess of the value of the butter. Consequently the total value of eggs and poultry may be taken to be nearly equal if not quite equal to the production of butter.

21446. Applying that to this particular district it means that butter, eggs, and poultry being taken together, the value exceeds altogether the total valuation of the district?—I should say so.

21447. Leaving out cattle and everything else?—Yes. The actual butter produced now by the co-operative creamery started in Ireland amounts to more than half of the total value of the butter exported annually from Ireland—that is the product of the co-operative creameries for which we are responsible.

21448. The total product?—The total export value.

21449. But there is a large question of home consumption?—Then it might be a great deal more than half. All we know in our creameries sold every year butter equal to more than half of the ascertained value of the butter exported from Ireland.

21450. Is the butter from the creameries in the main exported from Ireland?—Yes.

The Commission adjourned.

FORTY-FIFTH PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 1907.

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At Winchester House, 21, St. James's Square, London, S.W.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUBLIN, G.C.V.O. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTONY MACDONKILL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOUND, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Right Hon. Sir HORACE PLUNKETT re-examined.

21451. CHAIRMAN.—You have already given evidence before the Commission.* I was unfortunately unable to be present to hear you. Your evidence extended over two or three days, I believe?—For two and a half days.

21452. The evidence you gave then you have remembered as official evidence?—Yes.

21453. You also undertook to put in a memorandum, which the Commission now have?—Yes?

21454. Will you tell us how you draw the distinction between official and unofficial evidence?—My official evidence dealt solely with that part of the reference to the Commission which brought in the Department. While this Commission was inquiring, *inter alia*, into the relations between the Congested Districts Board and the Department, another Commission was inquiring exhaustively into the relations between the Congested Districts Board and the Department; so I should not have explained for two and a half days what I had already explained to the other Commission only that I found, in the course of my examination that the Commissioners did not quite understand what the Department was. They had heard a great deal of evidence in going about the country as to the inquiries of the Department, but I don't think they had a clear idea of the constitution, organization, policy, and procedure of the Department, and I found it necessary to explain that.

21455. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say the Commissioners you are speaking of this Commission?—Yes. This Commission did not quite understand what had been explained before Sir Kenelm Digby's Commission. That led to a duplication of evidence, but it was necessary. My evidence was official in the sense that it was not only agreed to by all the chief officers of the Department but was also, to the best of my belief, agreed to by the Agricultural Board. The evidence which I now propose to give, which I call my unofficial evidence, I give as a member of the Congested Districts Board from its start, as a student for twenty years of the problems that are before you, and also I give it from a somewhat long experience of practical work, in touch with the actual conditions in Ireland—partly in a voluntary capacity as an agricultural organizer, and partly in an official and administrative capacity. But I may say that the evidence I am now giving is official in this sense, that where it leads up to practical suggestions it is approved of by the Department, and is in strict accord with the evidence that two of the officers of the Department have given within the last few days. Further I believe that it is in strict accord with the views of the Agricultural Board, but of course I cannot commit them because the definite practical matters have not been brought officially before them.

21456. CHAIRMAN.—In giving us this evidence which you have just described, do you mean to follow this memorandum,† or is the memorandum separate from what you propose to tell us?—I propose to take the memorandum as read, but it might be a convenient course, if we followed it, paragraph by paragraph, and then I could answer any questions which any members of the Commission might wish to ask.

21457. CHAIRMAN.—I am afraid we cannot follow it paragraph by paragraph because there are seventy-four paragraphs, and we should never get through it this morning. I think the best way would be for you to tell your own story in your own way and then we shall ask any questions. If there is any part of the memorandum which you think more important than other parts if you would refer us to that then we could deal with it in that way, but I don't think we can go through it paragraph by paragraph.

21458. Sir ANTONY MACDONKILL.—I have only just received it this morning—I understood you to say you had read it the other day, but you must have been thinking of some other.

21459. I have not seen this before. I have read the papers Professor Campbell submitted. This is the first time I have seen this paper?—That is rather unfortunate because the memorandum was sent in as a declaration of policy, and the evidence given by Professor Campbell and Mr. Fletcher elaborated in detail the proposals which this memorandum contains. But I think, in the circumstances, the best use I can make of the time will probably be to follow the line of the memorandum.

21460. CHAIRMAN.—You can follow the line so far as the sequence is concerned, and you can tell us what part of the memorandum you are dealing with, but to read each paragraph would take too long—I did not propose to read any paragraph at all, but I came here in the belief that the memorandum had been read by the Commissioners, which, I now learn, is not the case. This puts me in some difficulty.

21461. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Could you not refer to its most important recommendations; for instance, you want to define congestion. That is a question of four lines?—If I had known what was expected of me, I might have done better, but I must now only do the best I can in the time at my disposal. The memorandum opens with a brief definition of congestion, which I need not even read, because, as I state in the very first paragraph, the Royal Commission and the Department are substantially agreed as to the working definition I have given here. I then go on to explain that my treatment of the problem of congestion differs somewhat from the conventional treatment in that I look at the problem much more from what I call broadly the human side of things than from the material. I deal much more with such subjects as education and economic development than with the land question. All my own views have been formed from a study not only of the physical conditions to be dealt with, but still more of the character of the people whom we wish to help. In four paragraphs under the heading, "The people of the Congested Districts" I bring out some points about the character of the people which I am sure the Commission will consider when they have time to read this memorandum.

21462. CHAIRMAN.—Certainly?—A few of the points I think I might mention are first: that on an examination of the character of the people we find we have advantages and disadvantages to consider. Their moral qualities are of a

Feb. 22, 1907.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett.

* See Appendix to Third Report of the Commission [Oct. 30, 1907], pp. 228-74.

† Ibid. pp. 374-66.

Feb. 22, 1907.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Parnell.

very high order. The physical condition of the people is extraordinarily good considering their history. Where the difficulty comes in is, as far as I can see, in a way of qualification for which the people cannot be held responsible themselves, which is due to their history and circumstances, but which must be taken into account in their treatment. I contrast the surprising industry they are capable of displaying under certain circumstances, with a lack of the qualities which seem to people the fruits of their industry, which I attribute to the fact that neither their education nor their circumstances have developed in them an industrial habit. I note that together with their extraordinary resourcefulness and great shrewdness in bargaining there is an equally extraordinary backwardness in commercial education and in business character.

21453. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Could you illustrate it by concrete examples?—I could. A good deal has already been said to the Commission about their business transactions. For instance, their relations with the shopkeepers, their long credit system, the system of barter, and their system of borrowing at a high rate of interest when they have got money in the savings bank at a very low rate of interest. Then in their agricultural practice I have taken as an illustration their neglect to spray their potatoes. I maintain, and I am speaking now from close personal observation, that compared with the knowledge most of us have got of general agricultural subjects, their knowledge as to the cause of and the means of preventing the potato blight, is very remarkable; and yet it is extremely difficult to get them to take the precautions that they know perfectly well how to take. But I must get on. I deal with what I call the agrarian view, that is the tendency to attach predominant importance to the land factor in the problem of congestion and too little importance to what I may call the labour and capital factors in agricultural production and distribution. And then I pass to what may no doubt give rise to a great deal of controversy—the distinction which I draw between the congested districts policy of 1890 and the policy which has been adopted in later years. The initiation of the later policy was due to the labours of the Recess Committee, although a great deal of work had been done by private individuals previously in starting the agricultural organisation movement.

21454. CHAIRMAN.—Are those two questions linked because if not I should like to ask you now a question on your first point?—They are linked, but they can be treated separately.

21455. In this paragraph referring to what you call the agrarian view you wish to draw attention to the fact that in your opinion too much stress has been laid on the question of tenure and not sufficient consideration given to the question of education; do I understand you rightly in that?—Yes, education and general agricultural development.

21456. Technical education?—Technical education. But, of course, this cannot be effective where general education is defective.

21457. Is it your view that before a resettlement should be attempted further steps should be taken to educate the people for the opportunities you propose to give them?—I would put it this way:—When the Commission have got all the evidence, they will be able to determine how much land is available and how much land will be required for the solution of the problem; but I think it would be most unwise to redistribute the land while the people are in their present state of backwardness. The people to be given fresh land will have to be helped in many other ways. This is all dealt with pretty thoroughly in the memorandum.

21458. Does that view apply to the whole of land purchase? Would you say that land purchase as a policy had gone too fast?—No, not land purchase. I am talking now of the redistribution of the land. I assume that the Royal Commission in their report will attempt to put before the public and before Parliament a picture of Ireland as it ought to be when the resettlement of the land under the Land Act of 1903 is complete. My point is, that although it may be necessary for the Government to get powers to acquire all the land they are likely to want, much will have to be done, many questions have to be thrashed out, as I go on to show afterwards, before it will be possible to determine the best method of redistributing the land.

21459. Do you see any great difference so far as that is concerned between direct purchase, as, say, on the King-Harman estate, and redistribution such as has been carried out on the Dillon estate?—There has been very little redistribution on the Dillon estate because there was very little land to redistribute. In the great majority of cases on the Dillon estate there was no land to enlarge the holdings. The average holding on the Dillon estate was, if I remember rightly, about twenty acres, but an immense amount of work has been done by the Congested Districts Board to improve the holdings, much more to improve the holdings than to enlarge them.

21470. Would you allow ordinary land purchase such as has been taking place on the King-Harman estate to go forward while you would check resettlement upon an estate where you might find a considerable amount of unutilised land suitable for redistribution?—I would not say any possible redistribution but I would say any general redistribution. It is a very important point, because you have an immense number of people who have to be provided with land, and the capacity of these people to work a farm will vary enormously, and a great many different kinds of holdings will be required; but my point is you cannot yet determine exactly what types of holdings you will want in your redistribution, and what proportion these types should bear to each other. It is an extremely complicated question.

21471. I am not arguing it. All I want to find out is exactly your point of view, and I understand you favour a continuance of the kind of work which the Congested Districts Board has been doing with regard to land settlement; that you would rather favour the work of resettlement going on at the pace at which it has been going under the Congested Districts Board for the last few years, and you would be opposed to any great acceleration of that work under any general scheme at present?—Yes, with our present knowledge a great acceleration of pace in the redistribution of land would, I think, be extremely dangerous, but when this Commission has got all the facts before it, when it has studied the extremely important evidence that has already been given, and a great deal more that will be given, I think it is quite possible that the obstacles to a rapid resettlement will be found to be removable.

21472. Will you explain if your reason for that view is because you think that the authorities have not yet sufficient knowledge of the class of holding which would be best given in Ireland, or because you think that the technical knowledge of the man himself is not sufficient to allow you to put him into an economic holding of any kind?—For both reasons. For instance, Professor Campbell has been for two and a-half days this week before the Commission, and his evidence went to show that there would have to be a complete revolution in the whole agricultural economy of the West of Ireland, in fact of the whole of Ireland, but especially of the West of Ireland. He may be right or he may be wrong, but if his opinions are supported by the rest of the evidence, if they are agreed to by the Commission, then it will materially affect the whole principle upon which the land will be redistributed. I have tried in this memorandum to suggest some of the principles which ought to be taken into account, and I may have to read one or two paragraphs which deal with this question.

21473. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—There is one question that I would like to ask in order to make clear what you mean. Take a concrete example of an estate purchased in a very congested part of Mayo, that estate consisting, say, of 1,000 acres, of which 700 are in the hands of small tenants, say with an average of five acres each, and 300 acres in the hands of the landlord and used as grass land; do you mean that if the Congested Districts Board bought that estate you consider they would be wise to postpone distributing the unutilised land among the small holders and raising the holdings from five acres to a higher level? Would you consider them wise in postponing that operation until the tenants had so far benefited by the education which your Department is imparting to them as to place them in a position to deal with the larger holdings better than they would be able to deal with them now?—No, I would not go so far as that; but I would like to know the particular case, because obviously each case must be dealt with on its own merits. It might happen

in this particular case that there was no other land available near to the highly congested 700 acres, and that giving these people more land, even if you could not give them a sufficiency, might be the best way of putting them in a position in which you could enable them ultimately to go higher; but I do think as a result of the Commission's inquiry it is highly probable that the whole idea as to what is an economic holding may be considerably modified, and also as to how far you can put all people who are in the condition you will probably find them in a highly congested district in Mayo on to an economic holding in Mayo.

21474. I infer from your evidence that you are not satisfied that the Congested Districts Board is pursuing the right course in increasing the holdings up to a standard of £10 valuation. That is what they are at. I take you to mean that the Congested Districts Board may be wrong in doing that, and that it might be better for them to hold their hand in regard to the enlargement of holdings until the tenants are in a position to cultivate the larger holdings with advantage; that is the impression your evidence gave to me?—As you say my evidence gave you a certain impression, I ought to say that you have not yet read my evidence. It is given in a good deal of detail in this memorandum. I hardly like to lay down the general principles I have submitted until the Commission have seen how the practical application of these principles has been worked out. I think my position will be plain when I have got everything before the Commission that I want to say. I have done a good deal of work on this memorandum, and I have good reason to believe that I shall get a good deal of support from agricultural economists and chambers on these subjects. I may say this generally, too, that so far from wishing to delay the resettlement of the land my firm belief is that my recommendations would tend immensely to expedite it. What I do want to avoid is a hasty resettlement of the land which will have to be undone. I presume we are all anxious to arrive at a situation in which economic causes may be allowed to operate without constant interference by legislation.

21475. Sir JOHN CORRY.—I thought you were laying down general propositions and that—correct me if I am wrong—it was your view that it would be unwise for the State to embark on a policy of redistribution of land before the efficiency of the people to work it had been developed by your educational policy established and maintained by the State; I certainly interpreted your general propositions to mean that?—I don't say that you should not proceed with redistribution of land, because you will get a large number of cases in which you can see your way pretty clearly, but what I would strongly deprecate is any attempt at a complete redistribution of the land in the present state, educationally and economically, of rural Ireland.

21476. CHAIRMAN.—I think it is quite clear. It is a question of degree?—It is a question of degree.

21477. You would not wish the whole of the distribution by the Congested Districts Board to come to an end, but you don't wish to see great schemes of redistribution initiated at present until, in your opinion, the people are more fitted to avail of it and until more knowledge has been collected on the subject. There is only one other point I wish to ask you about and that is this: is it not a point worth considering in that the very fact that you may provide opportunities for these people in itself stimulates their anxiety to be taught?—Certainly. But we should also aim at a redistribution of the land which will have strict regard to the extent to which the people were taking advantage of the educational and other means that were being provided for them. I quite agree, and everybody must agree, as to the immense value it would be to the people to put before them the possibility of getting a holding, but I think a system by which the amount of land a person was to get would partly depend upon his ability to cultivate it to the best advantage is a very desirable one to introduce, and I don't believe it is impossible. I know that there is a very strong feeling in the contrary direction. But in the interests of the people I do believe that extreme caution ought to be observed in sanctioning a redistribution of land which would be highly popular but which would not work out. What we want to do is to devise a system which would get the maximum amount out of the

land, and consequently provide the maximum of comfort to the largest number of people.

21478. I quite understand your point of view, but is it a practicable policy? You say you wish to avoid two redistributions, but won't you get two redistributions by doing that very thing that you advocate, because it is not one of the great difficulties at this moment to be found in the fact that the land, owing to the Land Purchase Act of 1903, is rapidly changing hands. The land which you may want as rapidly passing from landlord to tenant, and if you are going to have a general scheme of migration at all it will be advantageous if possible to get that land before it is actually sold to the tenants—that is, get it while it is still in the hands of the landlords; while if you wait until you have educated your people to such an extent that you can with confidence put them into those new holdings won't the result be that before that time arrives the whole of the land will be transferred to the tenants, and you will then have, in order to carry out a migration scheme, perhaps conspiratorily to take land from the very men who are being under Act of Parliament allowed to buy?—I quite see your point, but I think when you have time to read the memorandum you will see that I deal with the acquisition of the land and the redistribution of the land as two separate questions. I admit that when you see what land you want you ought to get powers to get hold of it; but this is not inconsistent with delaying the redistribution of the land until you really know what system of redistribution will be best.

21479. Do you suggest that the State should acquire land, and merely hold it until they have got that information?—Yes, I do. Take the case of untenanted land in Connemara. By untenanted lands I don't mean desamies, but lands now grassed on the eleven months' system. These are the lands about which there will probably be least controversy. I don't see why the State should not say, "We propose within a certain number of years, or immediately if you like, to take this land; we are going to step into the shoes of the landlord in respect of this land." They could then, if they were ready, distribute it, and if they were not ready, it could remain exactly as it is at present. What I am arguing against is too early a determination of the system, because I don't think you will be able to redistribute the land very quickly in any case; and I am not dealing so much with the actual redistribution of the land, as any reworking of the principle on which it should be redistributed. It depends on a host of considerations, many of which have been before the Commission this week, and I am sure that when your lordship has had time to consider the matter you will see that these are very real and serious considerations.

The CHAIRMAN.—Obviously the Government could not purchase untenanted land, and then hold it, merely to prevent it getting into the hands of other people. The proviso brought to bear by the people living around the untenanted land would be so great that I would be very sorry to be the unfortunate official who had that land to look after.

21480. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—The Government would have to pay the interest on the money which it gave for the purchase?—Of course, if you assume that the Government cannot resist the demand of those who want the land, then I have nothing more to say; but my point is this, that the Government ought to decide upon what principle the land should be redistributed, and that if their principle is sound, I think they can count upon getting a public opinion which will support them in their policy.

21481. CHAIRMAN.—The Congested Districts Board, we have been told over and over and over again, derives great advantage from the fact that it is an independent body, not a Government body. Yet it is not the fact that in some cases, for instance, I think on the Dillon estate, there has been already considerable discontent arising from the fact that the Board have held estates in their hands for some considerable time, while they improved them before they sold them to the tenants—is not there a general demand now that there should be a more rapid sale to the tenants after the estates have been purchased by the purchasing authority? Have you not experienced that as a member of the Board?—Certainly; but I hold that if the Government is going to deal with this question seriously at all, they have to make up their minds, not as to what settlement will best please those who

Vol. 22, 1897.

Night Hon.
Sir James
Fenwick.

Feb. 22, 1927.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Piercy.

happen at the moment to want the land, but what settlement is best in the interests of the people as a whole. Take the difficulty that the Congested Districts Board has had in its attempts to migrate a congested population from one county into another county. Your lordship knows very well the difficulty that has arisen in County Roscommon, and the opposition that has been raised to the bringing of migrants into Roscommon. Well, if that is to be considered final—if the question is not to be a national question, but is to be a local or county question, of course I should be wasting the Commission's time in arguing the economics of the question from a national point of view.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I will not press that point.
21482. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—With regard to redistribution, as I understand you, your object would be to redistribute the land in accordance with the capabilities of the various tenants to work it; you would give to one tenant, whom you considered capable of working only ten acres, a ten-acre holding, and you would give to another tenant, whom you considered capable of working twenty acres, a twenty-acre holding. Do I understand you rightly in that?—I should not like to lay down too rigid a rule, but certainly one of the chief considerations which should be taken into account in building up a peasant proprietary is the fitting of the holding to the holder, and of the holder to the holding.

21483. That is just the point I was coming to. Do you not think, if you were to adopt any process of differentiation like that, that although it might be suitable to the individual at the present time, in the second generation it might be quite unsuitable; while in the meantime it will be absolutely certain to create universal discontent?—When you have time to read my memorandum you will see that in dealing with this extremely difficult and complicated problem I do not ignore these considerations; and if you look at paragraphs 51 and onwards you will see that I feel the difficulty of this question. It is difficult to break into a memorandum in which I have tried to argue the question consecutively, but I think if I might read from paragraph 51 onwards we might get into touch a little more with the views I have actually put before the Commission.

21484. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—This system has been in existence in Ireland for a considerable number of years now. What is the date of the passing of the Congested Districts Act?—1891.

21485. And since 1891 have there been cases of making new tenancies under the Congested Districts Board?—Oh, yes; the Commission have complete evidence before them as to that.

21486. Have they made any?—Oh, yes.

21487. Do you know whether all these cases, or any of them, have been failures from the lack of technical education?—I cannot say. The people's condition has in every case been materially improved by getting better holdings, but that they would have done far better with technical education is also obvious.

21488. But if you could bring forward, to fortify your principle, concrete cases where they have failed, of course, it would save a great deal of trouble and time?—Well, they have hardly had time to fail yet—and I do not know exactly what you mean by "fail."

21489. What I mean is that a system which is admittedly imperfect, and which shows no signs up to this time, ought, on that account, to be allowed to proceed?—I am not proposing that the system should not proceed. We are all agreed that those who have too little land at the present time to prosper must have more land; but the question is, when you are giving the people more land, how much in each case ought you to give. We cannot lay down this with mathematical accuracy, but what I do hold is that we ought to agree on some guiding principles, and that if we do not we shall inevitably get into trouble.

21490. The point is that if you have, as the result of your experience as a member of the Congested Districts Board from 1921, any concrete instance to put before us, your case would be immensely strengthened?—I have my opinion upon the condition of almost the whole population of the congested area. There the standard of comfort is extremely low. We all want to see the standard of comfort raised. Now it is obvious that it would take a much larger holding to maintain a family with a higher standard of comfort than with a lower standard of comfort; but then comes in the determination of

what constitutes an economic holding, to use a term which the Commission will thoroughly understand; and then also comes in the other factor of the standard of comfort of the holder, and also, of course, the system of agriculture that has been pursued, and the general economic development of the district. All these things are so indeterminate at the present moment that it is very hard to say, and I think the whole wisdom of this Commission cannot say what is the test upon which to distribute the land. I am perfectly certain that the Congested Districts Board have set up a large number of holdings which will be proved to be uneconomic when the standard of comfort rises. I do not say that they were wrong to do so—I think they were perfectly right to make the best redistribution of their land that they could at the time; but what I am hoping, as the result of thorough inquiry into the whole question of the problem of congestion by this Commission, is that we shall have very much more light thrown upon the principles upon which redistribution ought to go. I do not criticize the Board's operations in any way whatever. I think they did the best that could be done in the circumstances of the time; but since the Board was founded, and quite recently, new factors, such as the Land Act of 1923, have come in, and there is also the probability, as I hope, of fresh funds being available for the agricultural and economic development of the congested districts. All these things have got to be taken into account.

21491. Sir FRANK MOWAT.—Do not answer my question if it will be covered by what you are about to read. Who or what is the authority which you propose shall examine into the fitness of different tenants for different holdings, and decide whether a particular man should have, say, fifteen or twenty acres?—Whatever authority is charged with the redistribution of the land. If the Estates Commissioners were to take over this function of the Congested Districts Board of course they would be the authority. If not, the Estates Commissioners would be the authority in the non-congested districts and the Congested Districts Board in the congested districts. But it is extremely important, in my mind, that the body charged with redistributing the land should act in the closest concert and consultation with the body that is attending to agricultural development.

21492. At all events, I gather from you that you would advocate some State authority within whose powers it would be to examine into and decide upon, one way or another, the fitness of individual holders for the particular holding which they desire to get?—Yes. In this Memorandum you will find that, while I do not say that every holder is to pass a competitive examination, or even a qualifying examination, for his holding, and while I contemplate in some cases the moving of whole communities, yet at the same time I believe that very strict regard should be had to the question of personal fitness of the peasant proprietary you are setting up. I want to see it put upon a basis of at least possible permanence.

21493. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—Do you mean that the rest of the fitness of a migrant to be put into a holding in the West is to be an individual test?—Certainly.

21494. Now, in order to explain what I want to arrive at I will take a concrete instance. Say there is land in Roscommon, which might be, under certain circumstances, made available for occupation as holdings, and say there is congestion in Connemara. Now, the condition is that there is land in one place and a congested population in the other, and I want to know, having these two things to deal with, whether you mean that you will be very careful in the selection of the individuals in Connemara, to whom you are going to give these new farms in Roscommon, or whether you mean that you would give these farms fitted with all the necessities to work them well, to a more experienced and different type of tenants, somewhere else—in Mayo or elsewhere—and shift the more advanced type of peasant into the land in Roscommon. Do you follow my concrete case?—Yes. I think you are simply asking me whether, in moving people from one part to another part of the country, and putting them on new holdings, you would consider the fitness of the holder to work the holdings properly. Is that your question?

21495. My question is rather this—that instead of dwelling with the individual qualities of a particular migrant in Connemara, you would deal with the matter more on the general principle that instead

of bringing a migrant from an extremely low level of agricultural conditions to a high level of agricultural conditions, you should put a more consistent tenant from somewhere else, advance him to the highest conditions—that is, to this supposed land in Roscommon—and move the best of the individual migrants from Connemara into the vacancies so opened up!—Now you are introducing a new element into the question.—

21486. I am trying to apply your principle. I want to know whether you apply it to test the individual fitness of a migrant or whether you would act upon the general principle that if the State spends money upon land in Roscommon you would consider that the policy should be to create vacancies on a somewhat lower class of holding by moving their occupants to Roscommon, and then moving the migrants into the holdings so vacated, so that the process upwards should be gradual, and not from one extreme to the other?—That plan has been adopted to some extent already by the Congested Districts Board. I quite agree with you that if you are going to take migrants from, say, some very congested and very backward district in Connemara, very few of them would succeed in the class of holding which, I take it, you have in your mind in Roscommon, and that only those few should be selected, and probably the best plan to deal with those you left behind would be to give some of them enlarged holdings where they are, and possibly to move others of them to a slightly better class of holding, which might ultimately be a step to a higher class of holding. We all know the extreme difficulty we shall meet with in helping the Connemara migrant to succeed, and I think it is very likely that there will have to be an intermediate stage. We have always held that on the Congested Districts Board, and I am sure that, generally speaking, it is a sound view.

21487. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You have handed in the late O'Connor Don's opinion.* Are you of his opinion that giving a second uneconomic holding to a man does not enrich him? For instance, if you moved the migrant to Roscommon in the way that Sir John Galah described, do you think it would improve his next-door neighbour—to give him the two holdings?—I think the case that The O'Connor Don was dealing with is the case where the migrant is now a migratory labourer; and his point was that he is more economic as a migratory labourer than he would be with an uneconomic holding made up of two uneconomic holdings.

21488. Which he could not work himself?—Which he could not work himself. That was The O'Connor Don's point, and it is one which, in my opinion, is very well worth considering.

21489. The CHAIRMAN.—Before you pass from that, there is just one other point I would like to put to you. With regard to your views about the question of the redistribution of land, I should like to know what you think about the advantage of what is going on at the present time—namely, the transfer of estates which need improvement from the landlords to the tenants through the ordinary medium of the Estates Commissioners: do you think that that is a good system, or do you think that where an estate does need improvement, and is situated in a congested district, it should pass first of all through the hands of the Congested Districts Board, to be improved before its final transfer to the tenants?—Of course if I were to say it should pass through the hands of the Congested Districts Board that would prejudice rather a big question, as to whether the Congested Districts Board should continue to work as the improving authority. I think it is an extremely good plan for certain improvements to be made by the public authority, and the cost of these improvements should be added to the instalments.

21500. I am not quite sure that you see my point. What has happened in many places is this—we saw some instances of it in Donegal—a congested estate has been sold direct from the landlord to the tenants; the estate has needed great improvement; then after the tenants have become the purchasers, they come down and ask the Board to improve, and make the roads, and generally to do the work which they would have done if that estate had been purchased by them, and had been in their own hands for a short time. It is much more inconvenient, it is not, for them to do the work after the tenants have become purchasers—I think there is a great deal to be said

in favour of doing any improvement in which the Government is going to be interested before rather than after the tenants have become owners, because a certain portion of these improvements can properly be added to the instalments, and it is obviously better to make that part of the arrangements by which they are to become owners than to alter the terms of repayment afterwards. Moreover, you can deal with the tenants collectively in the first case instead of separately as you would have to do in the second.

21501. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—There is a provision for that in the Land Purchase Act of 1903—if the landlord agrees that the estate should be declared congested the Estates Commissioners may buy it as a congested estate, and lose ten per cent. upon it to improve the condition of the holdings before they are resold to the tenants.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes, but you have always got the landlord's consent.

21502. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—That is the point. Then I understand, Sir RAYSON, that you would wish that section modified so as to render its operation more free?—Yes.

21503. The CHAIRMAN.—How far would you be prepared to go in support of the power to compel estates which need improving to pass through the hands of the improving authority before the tenant was allowed to purchase?—When you say estates which need improving, if you mean that the Government will have to improve, then, certainly, I think they should go into the hands of the Government in the intermediate stage. I agree to that.

21504. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—What do you mean by the words "if the Government have to improve"?—I mean if that is part of the policy the Government adopt—say as the result of the Report of this Commission.

21505. But that policy is already adopted and embodied in the Act—that congested estates ought to be improved before resold to the tenants?—You are dealing now with congested districts?

21506. I am not necessarily limiting it to the congested districts, but congested estates that in this instance comply with the definition of "congested." The section of the Act is section 4, clause 4: "In the case of a congested estate, as defined by this section, if the Land Commissioners, with the consent of the owner"—note those words, "with the consent of the owner"—"certify to the Lord Lieutenant that the purchase and resale of the estate are desirable, in view of the wants and circumstances of the tenants therein, then the Land Commission may purchase the estate for a price to be agreed upon, and in such case the conditions in this section as to resale without prospect of loss may be relaxed to such an extent as the Lord Lieutenant may determine." Now, that would make the Land Commission the arbiter of whether the estate requires improvement or not before resale to the tenant. That is an acceptance of the policy which His Lordship has been mentioning—namely, that estates which require improvement should not be resold to the tenants until they are improved. But the point that has been raised in previous evidence is that the effect of this section is neutralised by the insertion of the words "with the consent of the owner"; the action of the Land Commission is neutralised by the consent of the owner. Now, as I understand, the question which His Lordship puts is this—whether it is desirable that there should be any outside restricting power on the part of the Land Commissioners to declare that this particular estate requires to be improved?—Well, I suppose the owner's only interest in the matter is the difference between the interest that he would get pending the completion of the sale and the interest that he would get when he was paid.

21507. It is not that, I think. It is the question of free bargaining. For instance, in the case of an estate that the Estates Commissioners declared congested, the owner might agree with his tenants to sell within the zone. If he sold within the zone the Estates Commissioners would accept the sale at the agreed price, though the price in such a case might be such that the Lord Lieutenant would be unable to give them the power which would enable them to improve. It is a question whether there should be free bargaining or whether the zone should apply?—That is a question which I should not like to go into, because I have not considered it.

21508. The CHAIRMAN.—Do I understand from you that it is your view that it is inconvenient for the

Feb. 22, 1907.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett.

* See Appendix to Third Report of the Commission [Ct. 1414, 1907], pp. 132 and 134.

Feb. 25, 1907.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett.

improving authority to improve estates after they have been sold—that it is much more convenient for them to deal with them during the period of transfer?—Yes, but if my views were fully before the Commission (the question is so debatable that it is difficult for me to put them before the Commission in any shorter form than that of this somewhat condensed, though I admit still rather long Memorandum) they would see, I think, that once the Government have got a definite policy for dealing with the resettlement of the land, they ought to have compulsory power to carry it out, and I do not think that the commission should be only on the present owners of land; I think it should be very largely on the future owners of land. If this legislation is to be redeemed—and I think it can be redeemed—from the danger of its being regarded as class legislation, and legislation for the purpose of giving State money to those who happen to own, and happen to occupy, the land of Ireland to-day, it will be absolutely necessary to see that when the whole land transfer has taken place the new owners are in a position to do their duty by the land, and to justify the assistance that they have got from the State. I hold that the principle that property has its duties as well as its rights should be applied just as much to the peasant proprietary that you are going to set up as it does to the largest landlord in the country.

21593. I do not want to press you for an answer to this question if you have not thought about it sufficiently to come you to feel justified in answering it; but I should like, if I could, to get a definite answer from you as to whether you would approve of a proposal which would compel all estates which could be defined as congested estates (taking, perhaps the definition of the 1903 Act) to be sold only through the medium of the improving authority—to forbid the sale of these estates which apparently need improvement direct from the landlord to the tenant until they are improved by the improving authority?—I do not see why the bargain between the landlord and the tenant should not be left to the parties principally concerned. That arrangement surely is not necessarily inconsistent with the completion of the sale being postponed until the authority that is going to improve the estate has carried out its improvements, and has resold the land to the tenants, plus the improvements, upon such terms as the authority may determine.

21510. In your view it is inconsistent with the power of improving that the landlord should also have power to sell an unimproved estate direct to the tenant?—Yes, within the scope; but I take it what you are asking is whether the Land Act of 1903 ought to be changed by the abolition of the scope.

21511. Not so much that. At present there is freedom of sale and purchase, as between landlord and tenant, in the case of all estates. A man who owns a very bad congested estate in the West of Ireland, which needs a great deal of improvement, is just as able to come to an arrangement with his tenant for the sale of that estate as a man who owns an estate in very good order?—Yes.

21512. The result is that a certain number of estates have passed direct from the landlords to the tenants which need a great deal of improvement. Now, how are these improvements to be effected?—The tenants have not got the money to improve them, or the knowledge; the landlord has sold his interest in the estate, and therefore he has gone out of it; the only possible agency to improve them is the improving authority—the Congested Districts Board, or the Estates Commissioners or the Department. It is much more inconvenient, obviously, for these bodies to improve after the estate is sold than it would be when the estate is passing through their hands, firstly because of the difficulty of coming to terms with a lot of independent purchasers, and, secondly, because, the bargain having been concluded, there is a difficulty in adding the cost of the improvement to the annuity which you are going to get from the tenant. If, therefore, you are going to see that these estates are put in as good condition as possible before they are sold to the tenant, the only way apparently is to insist that with that class of property freedom of sale should be abolished, and that wherever a landlord wishes to sell that class of property he shall only do so through the medium of the improving authority.

21513. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Or with their approval; that is to say, there might be an estate as to

which the authority might say, "This is in fairly good condition, and does not require much improvement; if you can sell it to anybody else, so much the better."

CHAIRMAN.—That is an estate which does not need much improvement.

21514. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Really his lordship's question is this: whether a sale of congested estates should be under the first five sections of the Land Act, or under section 6; whether the sales should be sales from the landlord to the Estates Commissioners, or sales from the landlord to his tenants. In the one case the Estates Commissioners can improve before reselling to the tenants; in the other case the Estates Commissioners cannot?—I have admitted that it is necessary, in these cases, that the public authority should be in a position to effect the improvements on the estate before it is handed over to the tenants, and I will further admit that in principle it would be wrong that a landlord should be able to increase the price that he gets from the tenants in respect of improvements that are going to be made with fresh money brought in by the State. I admit all that, but I do not want to commit myself to any definite machinery that ought to be put into operation, possibly to the detriment of the parties concerned. It has not come in my way to consider these matters; they have been quite outside my own duties. I see how I should like the land to be distributed, and that I have gone into in this Memorandum, but I do not want to make admissions which, on further consideration, might turn out to be doing an injustice to one party or the other, when I have not considered the matter sufficiently.

21515. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You say that you have not fully considered these matters of sale and purchase?—Not the machinery.

21516. Or the principles?—I have considered the economic principles involved in the redistribution of the land, and the questions involved as between landlord and tenant in carrying out the Land Act of 1903 I have not considered.

21517. But I understood you—correct me if I am wrong—in the earlier part of your evidence to be advocating compulsory powers to be exercised by the State, to acquire land?—You will see the restrictions under which I put it forward.

21518. On the one hand you say you have not fully considered these matters of the methods and principles of land purchase; and on the other hand you have committed yourself to a principle of compulsory purchase, but really the value of your opinion rests upon how far you have considered the matter or not?—It will save time if I read what I actually wrote on the subject of compulsory purchase in the Memorandum.

21519. That was merely preliminary to following up Sir Anthony MacDonnell's point. Did I understand you to say, in answer to him, that you would be in favour of suspending the voluntary action of landlord and tenant on an estate coming within the definition of section 6 of the Act of 1903?—No, I did not say that; what I did say was that if the Government were going to improve certain estates, then the Government ought to hold the estate during the period of the improvements before distributing it among the tenants. That is all I want to commit myself to.

21520. Is this your position—that as regards the congested estates you would not interfere with the voluntary agreement between the landlord and tenant, but you would suspend the vesting order as far as the tenant is concerned on these estates until such time as the improving authority had dealt with them. Is that what you mean?—Yes. You know the working of these matters much better than I do.

21521. But I am asking you?—Whether suspending the vesting order is the correct technical description of the best way this could be done I do not know.

21522. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The problem is, as I understand the questions put by the Chairman and Sir Anthony MacDonnell, whether you are to suspend this voluntary action on the part of the landlord and the tenant in these congested estates because it interferes with improvement by the improving authority, or whether, by some other process, such as suspending the vesting order, you are to keep it open for the improving authority to carry out these necessary improvements on the estate.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I do not want to raise any further controversy. But your answer does not meet my point at all; my point had reference to the price which the State would have to advance.—Might I ask to be allowed to go on to the evidence on matters that I have given some special attention to, because I am in this position; my aim was to save as much of the time of the Commission as possible, and not to have any overlapping of evidence. Consequently I prepared a Memorandum which dealt with the general principles which were put forward by my Department, and two officers of the Department have come before the Commission and supported those principles with a mass of detail.

15584. Sir FRANK MOWATT.—Paragraph 51 was where you wanted to begin, was it not?—Yes, if I may be allowed to postpone the consideration of questions which have been already discussed. (Witness reading Memorandum).—There remains to be considered the conditions which affect the redistribution of the unallocated lands which are already in the hands of the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners, and may yet be acquired by them. I know that the treatment of this part of the problem which commends itself to my judgment will be regarded by some as theoretical and impractical. But a long and somewhat full experience of work upon analogous problems has convinced me of the absolute necessity of making a good deal of abstract reasoning the foundation of practical work in which you want to enlist the sympathy and help of intelligent but not well-educated communities. It may, too, be held that the Royal Commission should not waste its time on philosophical treatises, but should, after hearing what practical men have got to say, make a few straightforward businesslike, simple recommendations that everybody can understand, and the Government can adopt. I shall, however, assume that the Royal Commission will endeavour both to establish principles which will stand the analysis of economists and sociologists, and also to indicate the compromise between what is ideally best and what is politically possible. Foreign analogies might be cited which would strongly support the position I have taken up. But I need not go outside these islands for both thought and practical work upon cognate problems. No one can read carefully the recently issued report of the Small Holdings Committee without being impressed with the extreme difficulty of placing small holdings on a sound and permanent basis under existing economic conditions. The Committee does not appear to hesitate to ask for any legislation which may be necessary to deal with the land. There is in Great Britain no land hunger and no agrarian agitation to be reckoned with. The Committee are able, therefore, to take a broad and philosophic view of the situation, and the chief value of their report is that they treat the land factor in its relation to all the other factors of the problem of rural life. It is significant that in Great Britain, while the Small Holdings Acts are almost as inoperative as the Compulsory Education Act in Ireland, the Allotment Acts have been altogether successful. In the few cases where small holdings have succeeded the success was generally due to the enthusiasm of those who initiated and organised them. In most instances the landlords were the prime movers. This is particularly the case in the Scottish crofters districts. The chief condition insisted upon in the report, and abundantly supported by the evidence, is the fitness of the holder to work the holding profitably. Where this is not secured a probationary period is suggested. The promotion of agricultural co-operation by the State, as I have already said, is laid down as an essential element of a sound economy for rural communities with small holdings. Agricultural education is to be further assisted by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries; and in rural and semi-rural schools subjects based on rural needs are to be made compulsory, and school gardens are to be provided. The Committee hold that until all these things are done the distribution of land should be regarded as being in the experimental stage. The conditions in Ireland are, of course, wholly dissimilar to those which prevail in the rural districts of Great Britain; but, unfortunately, the differences, so far as they affect the problem we are considering, are not favourable to the poorer country. All over Europe an economic revolution has taken place in agricultural production and distribution, and our people have been neither tech-

nically nor commercially prepared to meet the altered conditions and compete in the modern market. There have not yet been developed in them the qualities which are essential to agricultural success. It would be folly to ignore so significant a fact as the aversion of the Irish in America from agricultural pursuits. There, at any rate, no readjustment of the land laws was needed to establish our people on the best farming lands of the world had they been so inclined. The rural areas and urban concentration, perhaps the most marked features of western civilisation, are sociological quite as much as economic tendencies; and it happens that the great majority of the Irish people have just the character and temperament to put them in the van of the movement towards the town. In this respect they were only a little in advance of the times in the life they chose in the United States. Social and intellectual organisations in Ireland will have to join forces with governmental agencies if our people are to be kept upon the land. In addition to these general considerations there are special difficulties which must be first recognised and then dealt with in any scheme of re-settlement. By a Parliamentary compact it is agreed that the evicted tenants must be placed upon farms; but years spent in exile from the land do not increase whatever qualifications they may formerly have possessed for successful husbandry. They will have to be specially looked after, and they are not the most difficult people to provide for. There are certain areas—South-West Connaught probably being the most difficult to deal with—where the landholders are in a state of chronic destitution, and where they are, by every circumstance of their past history and present condition, utterly unfitted to succeed upon economic holdings. They can and must be made self-supporting on the land, but this cannot be accomplished by giving them farms and calling them farmers. I have thought it necessary to give this rough survey of the conditions which affect the re-settlement of the land, but I do not suggest that the difficulties inherent in the situation are an excuse for delaying redistribution. We cannot put off the provision of farms until we have educated and organised the people to use them to the best advantage; but what I contend is that in carrying out the work we must allow for the defective conditions, and that the parceling of the land into what may be supposed to be economic holdings may, unless very great care be taken, create, in the long run, a much less prosperous peasantry than a more carefully thought out policy would have ensured. But whether the process of re-settlement be rapid or protracted, some working principles must be agreed to. I will, therefore, submit my own views as to the way in which the holdings of the future should be constituted. For the sake of clearness I am going to use a terminology suggested by the well-known distinction between holdings and allotments adopted in recent legislation. In Ireland we have already provided for as the term economic holdings. This I retain and take it to mean a farm upon which, given a fair degree of efficiency, a family will be able to support a decent standard of comfort. Any holding upon which the occupant can do more than this I shall call a 'hyper-economic holding' (throwing the responsibility for this nomenclature upon those who ran into Greek before me); and for pieces of agricultural land which will not provide subsistence for a family without external resources I shall use the term allotment. I shall not attempt to fix the proportion which these three divisions of land should in the new agrarian order bear to each other. This is a matter which neither the Royal Commission nor Parliament can now determine. Whatever policy may now be in contemplation for dealing with the chief agent of production in Ireland, it is safe to predict that the economic law will ultimately dispose of all that the Royal Commission may propose. The strong family of one generation may be the weak family of the next, and no magnanimity can preserve an equality in landholding while stress for conducting the industry of farming varies. The strong family will get more land, and the "long, weak" family will have to do with less land, make what laws you will. I am not, I repeat, arguing against action. Even if no higher ground be taken than the financial considerations involved, the Government is under the necessity of devising a policy for raising the economic level of the poorer rural districts. If such a policy is to gain the whole-hearted support of the Irish people, it must have as

Feb. 25, 1907.

 Right Hon.
Sir Frank
Mowatt.

* See Appendix to Third Report of the Commission, pp. 219 and 220.

Feb. 22, 1907.
Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett.

its aim and justification the settlement of as many people upon the land as can be reasonably expected to maintain themselves upon it in decency and comfort. Towards such an end the division of the entire agricultural area into a set of class-boards of economic holdings appears to be the most popular means. I have heard people talk as if the carrying out of such a scheme required no greater intellectual effort than the simple arithmetical process of dividing the available acres by the number of deserving applicants. The difficulty, however, of the class-board solution do not relate only to the plans, but also to the board itself. Nobody knows yet, or can know, what an economic holding is. It is a purely relative term, dependent upon the standard of comfort which is to prevail, the efficiency of the holder, and his economic environment. In any real solution of the main problem each of these factors will be materially affected. The standard of comfort is rising rapidly, and anyone who keeps in touch with the movement of popular thought in Ireland knows that the causes of the rise will operate increasingly in years to come. And as it rises, the economic holding must expand to meet the larger requirements of the holder. On the other hand, when certain contemplated developments have been carried out, the economic holding may not have to be quite so large as it would have to be to-day. It is quite possible, indeed it is necessary, to revolutionise the technical and commercial methods of Irish agriculture. The foundations for such a development are being laboriously laid in the country by means which Professor Campbell will explain in detail. The introduction of a more intensive cultivation, the reorganisation of the entire business of farming upon co-operative lines, the encouragement of home industries, and a more thrifty domestic economy will, taken together, enable the Irish peasant to support the agreed standard of comfort on a lesser amount of land than he now requires. The Irish peasant of to-day requires much more land, in proportion to his standard of living, than does, for example, a French, Belgian, Dutch, or North Italian peasant. If the methods which have enabled these peasants to improve their condition are, *mutatis mutandis*, introduced and persistently practised in Ireland, it may be that the Irish peasant will before long prosper upon a holding from which he would now have to emigrate. Where, in the determination of the economic holding, the balance between larger needs requiring more land, and greater efficiency and economy, enabling the family to support itself with less land, will ultimately be struck, cannot now be confidently stated. The earlier experience of the Congested Districts Board in migration and enlargement of holdings was more valuable in its negative than in its positive results. This was incidental to the conditions with which they had to deal. I remember when the conditions of the time forced the Board to take, as the test of an economic holding, the valuation below which experience showed that in times of exceptional distress the families came upon the rates, the minimum valuation being fixed at £5. But then we were dealing with emergency conditions, and had very limited opportunities of acquiring suitable land for our purpose. We could not discuss a standard of comfort when we were face to face with the question of existence.

21525. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Was that on the Dillon estate?—Not particularly. I forget the precise particulars at the moment, but I quite remember the discussion at the Board; I remember Mr. Down's putting that test before us; he said in effect, "Of course that condition is not satisfactory to me, or to the Board, but we have got to improve this estate, even if the improvement is only temporary, and experience shows that even in times of chronic famine those who have a valuation of £5 and upwards do not come on the rates; therefore err on the side of giving a lot of people of £2, £3, £4, and £5 valuations on to a £5 holding you have done good." And that no doubt is true.

21526. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I may point out that a period of chronic famine would reduce everybody to going on the rates!—Chronic famine only in a few cases; I do not mean a general chronic famine, but a partial chronic famine.

21527. Is there any place in Ireland in which there is a chronic famine?—Yes, I suggest West Cork more, for instance, and in portions of Erris.

21528. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Absolute want of food?—Absolute want of food.

21529. Not starvation. Nobody dies of starvation now!—But you have relief works.

21530. There are very rarely relief works!—Oh, very rarely now, but they were frequently necessary.

21531. And they probably would have got on without the relief works!—Well, of course we all know—out the relief works in the West of Ireland will tell you—that it is impossible to administer relief works without very great shares, but that they were necessary in many cases there can be no possible doubt.

21532. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Nothing has struck me more than the universal testimony of the parish priests that the question of starvation as the result of these periods of distress has disappeared!—That is quite true.

21533. Is that consistent with the description you have just given of chronic famine? I only want to give due weight to your evidence!—I am talking of a state of things which has passed; I am talking of the earlier years of the Congested Districts Board, and I will remember this test being put before us. I only give that as an instance of the circumstances which presented as getting very far into this problem in the past; we are getting much nearer now to the point where we really can solve it. Heaven knows I am not trying to suggest difficulties which do not exist.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I only wanted to be able to give due weight to your evidence.

21534. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—With regard to this sentence, "The experience of the Congested Districts Board in migration and enlargement of holdings has been more valuable in its negative than in its positive results," is that your experience as a member of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, but I would say on that that the negative results were just as valuable to us as positive results, and the remark applied only to the earlier years when the Congested Districts Board was not in a position to make a final solution of the problem. I wanted also to explain why the number of economic holdings that they had been able to constitute had so far been small.

21535. But you do not mean by this sentence that the harm done by these operations was greater than the good done!—Quite the contrary; I think the negative results were just as helpful to us as the positive results; I cannot conceive of any governmental body going into congested districts and not having to go through a period when the results would very largely have to be negative.

21536. Mr. BRYCE.—What do you mean by negative results?—I mean that they have shown us as much what to avoid as what to do. They have helped us to determine the conditions which are required for a permanent settlement.

21537. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—I have it here, on the authority of the Secretary of the Congested Districts Board, that in the case of all the new holdings created up to March, 1906, success has been attained, and that they have all done well!—I quite accept that, they may have done well in the sense that they have enormously improved their condition, but still I do not know that it would be safe to say that with a higher standard of comfort they would be able to remain on these holdings and to maintain themselves and their families.

21538. Is not that rather entering the region of prophecy?—We cannot confine our view entirely to the past and the present. I would not use such a term as "prophecy," but I take it we have got to look ahead.

21539. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You have several times referred to the improvement of the standard of living?—Yes.

21540. Is not that in itself a proof of the success of small holdings?—I am not denying the improvement that has been effected.

21541. I want, if you will pardon me, to get an answer to that question, because it underlies a great deal of what you have said. You have said here that the cause of the improvement in the standard of living will continue to operate for some years to come. Does not that mean that the standard of living increases, and naturally increases, with the power of obtaining it? In periods of chronic famine and starvation such as those which you have referred to, of course there could be no increase or improvement in the standard of living, but the improvement of the standard of living is generally accepted by economists, is it not, as an absolute proof of the improvement of the condition of the people?—I am afraid that my experience of life would hardly

hear that out. I know of a great many cases where the standard of living has increased much more rapidly than the means of maintaining it, and when that happens in Ireland you will have increased emigration. I had in my mind in that sentence not only the improvement in physical comfort, but the increased desires which arise from improved means of communication, a more general knowledge of how people are living elsewhere, how their relatives are living in America, and so forth. I did not want to look only to the improved physical conditions and the improvement in the visible resources of the people, but also to the improvement in regard to their aspirations and outlook upon life.

21542. Mr. KAVANAGH.—In your experience in foreign countries, have you ever come across a definition of "economic holding"—in France, or in Germany?—I have never come across a definition of it, but I think in France a little light is thrown upon it by the experience of the peasant proprietary there. If I remember rightly, it was between twenty and twenty-five years ago that the present laws, which will admit of the infinite subdivision of property were enacted, and at the time I remember reading prophecies by economists that that would inevitably result in a hopelessly uneconomic state of things, and that the standard of comfort would go to a minimum, and that the holdings would go on being divided and divided until even that standard could not be maintained; but what I think has actually happened is that an effective standard of comfort, as the economists call it, has been established in the lives of the people, and sub-division does go down to that minimum standard, but there it stops; they will not go below that. So that, although they have got certainly a very low standard of comfort, they keep to that.

21543. You have no idea what standard they stop at in the division of land—it was not fixed by the State?—No; I was talking of the laws of inheritance.

21544. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does not what you have been saying exactly bear out what I put to you—that the economic conditions establish the standard?—I agree, of course, that the maintenance of the standard must depend primarily upon economic conditions, but we have been using the term in rather different senses; there is the standard of desire and the standard of possible achievement. Perhaps I had better continue reading the Memorandum. I have dealt with the earlier and now come to the later estates work of the Congested Districts Board. (If it now reads Memorandum.)—The later operations of the Board are of more positive value; but I gather from the evidence of Mr. DORR, who speaks from the fullest knowledge, that the Board is very far from being in a position to standardise the economic holding. Even where contentment reigns upon the Board's newly settled estates, careful account must be taken of the fact that, under the Board's system, the wisdom of which I am not calling in question, the tenants and purchasing tenants have been paid considerable sums in wages for making improvements on their holdings. Furthermore, the payment of large sums as wages to the tenant purchasers on the Board's estates for engineering works creates conditions of temporary prosperity. Persons who are in a position to influence public opinion have, to my knowledge, been completely misled owing to ignorance of these facts, and have created an impression that the operations of the Board have produced a general improvement of conditions far beyond anything which the Board itself would claim for them. One of the adverse factors to be reckoned with in the matter which may set in when this assistance, necessarily temporary, is withdrawn.

21545. I think it would be well to examine that for a moment. The people on the land have been employed in effecting economic improvements—that is to say, they have received wages for work by which they have made the small holdings of land which will eventually come to them economically better?—Yes.

21546. And they will extract from those holdings the advantages in the way of income which those wages have been paid to them to secure?—Yes.

21547. Therefore they get the wages in another form. If those improvements were economic when the tenant comes into possession of his holding, it would be an advantage?—It would be a reproductive expenditure, you mean?

21548. Yes?—Quite so; but my point is this—that supposing any particular holding was not economic even after it had been improved, although I should say that the improvement was quite right for the Board to have executed, at the same time the Board might be criticised afterwards because the tenant purchaser or migrant who is quite contented now, may say, "I cannot get on; I have not enough land; I was not put in an economic position by the Congested Districts Board." Of course on the Dillon estate, which I have in my mind, it was impossible to put all the tenants immediately on economic holdings; a great many that were on uneconomic holdings are now on economic holdings, and so shall not hear from them; they are settled for good. Then there are a great many others, of course, who want a great deal of help, which I hope they will get through schemes of technical education, agricultural development, and so on, but there are a great many others which could not be made economic, and which this Commission will still have to deal with.

21549. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Take the case of the drainage of that estate. The effect of the drainage was to add to the economic land a very considerable acreage?—It was a splendid operation.

21550. And to the extent of that land added to the estate tenants on the estate profited?—Certainly. I think we understand each other, and I may continue the Memorandum. The question of a standard of comfort, in its relation to the re-settlement of the land, is by no means merely academic. I agree with the object at which the advocates of the clean-hand solution are aiming—the settlement of as many families as possible on the land. The larger the proportion of truly economic holdings in the re-settlement the better for the nation. But if the re-settlement is to be permanent, it must be a natural social evolution, and this cannot take place until a standard of comfort is, not only an abstractum, as I have talked about as the economic holding, but a concrete reality in the life of the people. One very good test of the realisation of this ideal would be the passing of that well-known danger to peasant proprietors, sub-division. We want to create in Ireland a situation analogous to that existing in France, where, although the laws of inheritance actually encourage sub-division, sub-division stops when the holdings are reduced to the minimum size consistent with the maintenance of the established standard of comfort. The law may prevent sub-division, but it cannot deal with the far more important factor, the desire to sub-divide. This can be treated effectively in one way, and one way only—by the establishment through education of what is one of the very elements of civilisation, a standard of comfort which people cannot sacrifice without loss of self-respect. This is one of the chief objects of the Department's teaching of domestic economy. It will be recognised that the whole question is one of great difficulty, but I hope my object will not be misunderstood. So far from wishing to delay the re-settlement of the land, I am anxious to get the peasantry settled as thickly and as rapidly as is consistent with their well-being. I believe this end will be best attained by a variety of holdings, or (to use the above-mentioned terminology) by supplementing the economic holdings with hyper-economic holdings and with allotments. This view is based upon a wide range of considerations, but I shall restrict myself to points suggested by the social and economic revolution which is now in process in Ireland. It is quite conceivable that the Land Act of 1903, even without amendment, might abolish the system of dual ownership in the life of half a generation. What a transformation in the social economy of rural Ireland this change in land tenure means requires some imagination fully to appreciate. The benefits to the majority of the agricultural classes which will flow from the resulting social upheaval are, I fear, exaggerated, and the risks and responsibilities which belong to the new status are too little considered. The landlord and agent will, I anticipate, be found to have been not much worse than any other body of citizens, their alleged inequalities often being attributable rather to the system than to the use they made of it. The abolition of their social and economic leadership, even where it was abused, will leave a void which will have to be somehow filled. It is clearly a case where the Government will for some time have to fulfil the functions that a good landlord, in his own interest, under favouring con-

Feb. 22, 1907.

Right Hon.
Sir ROBERT
MOWATT.

Feb. 23, 1906.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett.

ditions, would have discharged. As things are our peasant proprietary will be the best organised peasantry in the world. One of my hopes for the future of Ireland is that, when the first effects of the social upheaval pass, a large number of landlords will determine to remain in the country and take a part in building up its more prosperous state. But it is of great importance that encouragement be given to men who will bring capital, education, and opportunities of travel to bear practically upon the problems of agricultural development. Even in countries where the State actively concerns itself with these matters, agricultural progress will be found to be largely due to the initiative and enterprise of men of this class. I have not, however, so much in my mind the class of large proprietors as the class of large farmers whose leadership is required for the introduction of science into the practice, and of organisation into the business, of farming. I have already pointed out that as the work of agricultural development proceeds and begins to take effect in the country, one of the greatest difficulties to be overcome will be the lack of working capital required for buildings and equipment. The part played by the substantial farmer in this matter is a factor of vital importance in the establishment of a peasant proprietary—to say nothing of his function as an employer of labour, which has not been sufficiently considered. In my own conception of a permanent and prosperous peasant proprietary in Ireland, a few hyper-economic holdings are included for ex-landlords, and a good many for substantial tenant purchasers. I come now to the smaller holdings, the allotments for labourers. To begin with, there are the migratory labourers whose labour we would all desire to see adding to the wealth of Ireland. Large numbers of these workers will not, under the new conditions, be able to find employment in the neighbourhood of their present homes. Then there are the really congested districts, mostly lying along the seaboard, where subsistence upon agriculture is physically impossible. From many of these districts the people have never migrated, but have sought to eke out a bare existence by fishing, help farming, and other similar precarious resources. Such agriculture as they practice depends largely upon seaweed and sand, which they will badly miss when they go inland. Some of the people may be placed at once upon economic holdings, but the greater number will have a far better chance of improving their position if they are placed upon allotments. For these labour must be provided. A constant demand for labour would, of course, exist in the hyper-economic holdings if the Department's scheme of agricultural development, involving the extension of tillage, were adopted and worked out. I may mention in passing that the change of system which we advocate, and which will increase the demand for labour, may come into effect much more generally anticipated. We hold in the Department that the breakdown of our present wasteful grazing system will not come from Canada or the United States, where they are not likely much longer to have stock cattle for export; but from the ranches of the Argentine. They will shortly take back from us an hundred-fold the high prices they have been giving for our best blood in order to improve the quality of stock, which they are growing in enormous quantities upon vast tracts of cheap land. We shall be forced into fattening rather than growing our cattle, and into a rapid development of dairying, pig-rearing, poultry and egg production, and similar operations where our weakness to market is an advantage to us. All this will mean capital, as I have already pointed out, and also a very considerable employment of labour. The strong farmer will want allotments established upon or adjoining his holding. The owners of economic holdings will be suppliers and employers of labour. They will be employers when the family in any generation is deficient in labour power and would, without such help, derive a smaller return from the land. The family, on the other hand, with a larger working power than the holding requires will be glad to find employment for its surplus labour. I hope this will complete the case for the three classes of holdings. The solution of the problem which I have ventured to criticise appears to me to be based on the fallacy that by giving a man a farm you make him a farmer. It would be less untrue to say if you make him a farmer he will get himself a farm. If the scheme could be put into operation at all, which is doubtful,

it would inevitably go to pieces. The cause of dissolution might be a higher standard of comfort than that which was contemplated when the holdings were standardised. The more probable evolution of the policy would be a definite subdivision—I am aware that it is to be de jure impossible—or an absorption of the holdings brought about by the insolvency of holders. I can conceive of no higher aim for state-manship than the establishment in Ireland of a prosperous and contented peasantry. But in the pursuit of this ideal, in our desire to see our people increase and multiply and replenish the earth, we must beware that we are not building without foundations. We must not make Ireland a land where men accumulate and wealth decays—we must not reproduce the congestion we are seeking not only to cure but to prevent. While avoiding this danger care must be taken not to discourage the ambition to become farmers, of those who are compelled to be chiefly labourers. The scheme I am advocating seeks to provide a means by which the successful members of the peasant classes may improve their opportunities. We ought to have what (to borrow a term from the pedagogues) one may call an agricultural ladder, which will enable the allotment holder who has risen to the height of his opportunities to go up to the economic, and later, if he has it in him, to the hyper-economic holding. Conversely, as an ideal but not I think altogether unreasonable peasant proprietary, there should be a means by which those who, through change of circumstance, are unable to work a large holding to advantage, should be able to fall back upon a small holding, where the economic holder may find in an allotment a comfortable existence at home, instead of having to emigrate. One general objection which is sure to be made to my scheme had better be faced at once. I am quite aware that it cannot be put into operation very rapidly, if the peasant proprietary is to be placed upon a sound and permanent footing. What I call the agrarian view, the inevitable consequence of the land system now being legislated away, still dominates the attitude of public opinion towards the problem of congestion. It has had one effect upon the Irish peasantry which must be counteracted before they can be successfully started upon their new career. It has made them extraordinarily immobile. They stick to their holding with a tenacity which is frequently in inverse proportion to its inherent value. This sharply distinguishes them from many other agricultural communities I might name. When farming becomes a progressive business and not merely a bare existence, people will be content to move up and down the agricultural ladder. If the reasoning which I have applied to the re-settlement of the land be approved, two conditions of material importance to the solution of the problem must be supplied. Firstly, instead of now stereotyping the form of peasant proprietary, the land system should have elasticity, which makes necessary a simple and cheap form of land transfer; and, secondly, the people should be induced and enabled to become mobile. The first condition is a corollary of the opinion above stated, that it would not be desirable, even if it were possible, at the present stage to determine the proportion which the three divisions of the land should bear to each other. Clearly the proportion should change with the changes in agricultural production and distribution brought about not only by scientific discovery, but by the foreign supply in the British markets. The mobility required to enable our farmers to meet these changes can be produced only by education and organisation. There is, too, another reason for proceeding forward with these two agencies of progress which I cannot here elaborate, but the importance of which will be plain to the Commission. If the view of those with whom I have chiefly worked in Ireland be correct, and the Irish people are especially strong in the associative qualities, the difficulties of migration will be most easily surmounted by moving communities rather than families. I should like to see several such experiments tried, the Department being allowed in some instances to give special attention to the education and organisation of the communities before the migration takes place. It goes without saying that the closest co-operation between the authority dealing with the land and the authority preparing the people to prosper on the land is absolutely essential to the success of any policy which the Government may determine shall be tried. Before concluding my observations upon the land aspects of the problem

there is a possible misunderstanding which it is well to anticipate. I hold that it is very desirable to arrive at an early decision as to the lands which are to be made available for the enlargement of holdings and the migration of families; but this is not incompatible with the view I have put forward, that the Government should proceed cautiously at first with the re-settlement of the land. Even if we could determine the types of holding to be created, and the proportion they should bear to each other, we could not now select the families to be settled upon them without prejudicing the claims of others who, though equally deserving, may not be ready to take advantage of the opportunities offered. My observation of the census work of the Congested Districts Board has convinced me that until further experiments in re-settlement have been tried—and, still more, until further demonstrations of the agricultural possibilities of small holdings have been given—the people to be provided for will not know what kind of holding will be best suited to their circumstances. Among the consequences of premature settlement would be the granting of holdings to families who, not being prepared to cultivate them properly, will fall back upon grazing, which is less profitable upon a small than on a large scale. Others will refuse to purchase sufficient land to make the holdings economic; or if they are offered holdings elsewhere will refuse to move. The attitude of the people towards migration is improving, and in the near future it can easily be made much more favourable to schemes of re-settlement than it is at present. In short, we ought not to mortgage the future of the peasantry by forcing them to decide these vitally important matters before we have placed them in a better position to act wisely in their own interests. These considerations will have to be weighed with if the settlement of the land is to be satisfactorily carried out; and I have dwelt upon them in the hope that, so far as is humanly possible, from the reception of final settlements the Report of the Royal Commission may deliver us. Meanwhile, I see no insuperable difficulty in utilizing land, which has been acquired but not redistributed, for the benefit of the community in whose behalf it is being held.

2552. CHAIRMAN—There is just one thing that strikes me. Your great wish, as I understand it, is to prevent there being anything like a stereotyped form of economic holdings—the chess board system? You don't wish to see Ireland parcelled out into a uniform system of economic farms?—My first point is that I want to establish as many economic holdings as are necessary, and my second is that every community should have in addition to the economic holdings larger holdings, which I have called hyper-economic and allotments.

2553. You don't want to stereotype a system of small holdings all of the one class. You would have several kinds—the hyper-economic, the economic, and the allotment?—Yes; I shall give you my reasons.

2554. Very well, then. What you want is various sorts of small holdings. But we are dealing now with the Congested Districts. Supposing you did have some general scheme of migration, such as suggested; there are 500,000 people in the congested areas, and if even by a stretch of the imagination you could move 200,000, and if they were all given the same class of economic holding, surely there would still remain ample opportunity for the allotment or the hyper-economic holding to grow out of the ordinary purchase operations carried on by the Estates Commissioners outside the Congested Districts?—I would not like to admit that without going into the figures. What I contemplate is that in every community there should be three classes of holding. As far as I can think the matter out, no community consisting purely of economic holdings would be on a sound permanent basis. I give my reasons for this in my Memorandum, which really ought to be read before we discuss it together.

2555. Of course, when you talk about a "community" you don't mean the people living on the small area comprised by an estate?—An estate as a division will disappear; but my scheme, as you will see when you read the Memorandum, involves, as an essential part of the agricultural economy that has to be set up, the organization of the community.

2556. Say the Estates Commissioners were the authority purchasing an estate in Roscommon, a large estate composed of a great deal of unimproved grass land, and a certain amount of small holdings. They

proceed, first of all, to meet the local demand by giving some of that grass land to increase the holdings of the people living around. Then, having satisfied that local demand, they proceed to divide the rest up into small economic holdings and to bring in migrants. What is the position of that estate? You have a certain amount of stereotyped economic holding. You have a certain amount of holdings of various sizes, some of which were in a good condition before the estate was bought, and, therefore, had not been touched; others which have been increased to a varying extent by the addition of some of the unimproved grass land. So that, taking that estate as a "community," even by following the general scheme of migration such as you have dwelt upon, you would not get a stereotyped form of economic holding, you would get different forms and sizes of holdings?—That would depend entirely on the policy which the Government of the day adopted; because I understand your lordship's case to be that you would have, say, a thousand or 500 acres of land to distribute. You would use some of that land in order to make the adjoining uneconomic holdings economic, but the greater part of the estate would still have to be dealt with. If around this area of land there were holdings, some of which I call allotments and some hyper-economic holdings, I would be very glad to see the rest of that land made into economic holdings. But if there were no allotments or hyper-economic holdings, then I would like to insist the claim that every man who has an allotment in the neighbourhood is entitled to have an economic holding, or that all migrants to the estate are entitled to have economic holdings.

2557. My point is that there must be so much ordinary purchase going on in Ireland that, even if you had a large scheme of migration and redistribution upon economic holdings, you would still get non-uniform conditions; that you would not get chess-board conditions because of the fact that the Government will be re-settling only a certain amount. The rest will be transferred under the ordinary Act, without any manipulation.

2558. MR. SUTHERLAND—As it is distributed now?—Where the distribution is satisfactory and consistent with a permanent establishment of a peasant proprietary on a basis of comfort and prosperity, then, of course, no question arises. Still I think it is important that the Commission should lay down the principle on which such peasant proprietary should be established, because when you come to redistribute land, unless you lay down principles, the authority which has to deal with this land will simply have to yield to the popular demand that every man is entitled to have an economic holding. That is what I am afraid of, because, as I see things, that would be disastrous to the country. I don't think it would work out economically.

2559. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT—There is one point I don't quite understand. In speaking of allotments you mean to convey they are not economic?—Yes; they are not economic without auxiliary resources in industries, fisheries, or labour.

2560. Does your scheme anticipate that allotments should be added to economic holdings or that people should live upon them in an uneconomic state?—I think I can explain it by reference to what I have just read as to allotments for labourers.

2561. You contemplate a class of labourer who will not only let out their entire labour to the hyper-economic or to the economic holding, but will also cultivate their own plot?—Certainly; and I think that is extremely important. We have got labour in the country now, and I want to see the migratory labourers getting permanent employment in Ireland.

2562. CHAIRMAN—Is that the case in other countries where peasant proprietors are so successful?—It is in a good many countries. I could get you the particulars. One great point that is alluded to by agricultural economists is the mobility of small farmers. I should like to set up an agricultural ladder whereby what I have called the allotment holder of to-day, if he does his best, may become the economic holder of to-morrow, and may go on to the hyper-economic holding. Where the occupant of the economic holding is unable, owing to the circumstances of his family or misfortune, to prosper as the economic holding, I should be glad to see him come down to the allotment. Mobility and elasticity are vitally important.

Ad. 22, 1905.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett.

Feb. 22, 1906.

Right Hon.
Sir James
Fisken.

21562. Mr. BARRY.—You would not be glad to see him come down?—I would sooner see him come down than go out. He may rise again.

21563. But you would be glad to see some refuge for him if he did come down?—Yes. And it must happen in all businesses that persons will have to change from the region of larger operations to that of the smaller.

21564. Sir James FISKEN.—Is it necessary to labour the matter of the allotments at all, in view of the fact that laws exist enabling the local authority to create allotments under the Labourers Acts?—It is not necessary to labour the point that there must be allotments. What I am talking of is the relationship of allotments to other kinds of holdings in building up a peasant proprietary. You may think that this is rather more of an academic and theoretic question, but I strongly hold that if you don't lay down principles you will simply have to yield to popular pressure. That is what I want to avoid. I want to have the whole question thoroughly threshed out, so that whatever recommendations the Royal Commission may suggest will have the support of sound public opinion.

21565. Now, one question. I won't go into this matter of economic holdings and hyper-economic holdings. I take it you don't agree with the evidence we have had here from the Estates Commissioners that, having striped land and transferred people into it at the State expense, that one holder, who is a thrifty and prosperous man, should not be allowed to buy a holding from another who had failed, because it would disturb the conditions and lead to amalgamation, and bring us back to where we started from?—I think that for a period the Government may have to exercise restraint upon transfer of land, but that at a later stage, when we have raised the economic condition of the rural community mainly by educational agencies and organisation, the poorer the economic law is allowed to operate the better.

21566. Then do you agree with the evidence we have had, that the State, having taken up an area of grass land, having settled upon it economic holdings, and spent money upon them and on the necessary buildings, and so on, you do agree with the Commissioners that one of those men should not be allowed to add to his holding by buying another at all events for a time?—For a time, at all events. If the Royal Commission adopt a system of re-settlement—of course a classic system so as to be applicable to a great variety of districts—then until economic holders and allotment holders are fairly able to take care of themselves in the new conditions, some restrictions ought to be devised to prevent them being bought up by shrewd business men.

21567. You think that provision would be necessary for some time, because you are going to take up land and re-settle it at the State expense, with a certain number of settlers who are not fit to take care of themselves. Do you take it as the basis for framing a policy that these men are not fit to take care of themselves?—I am quite certain that a considerable number of people will be put upon holdings whom they are quite unfit to succeed, and you will never be in a really healthy condition until the successful farmer can buy out the unsuccessful farmer. But I quite see that with all the disadvantages these people are under at present they ought to be safeguarded by being kept under some supervision and control.

21568. Then, you wish the Commissioners to understand this—that in your view a certain proportion of these persons settled by the aid of the State, helped by the State with State money, will not be fit to take care of themselves, and therefore will not be able to work their holdings properly; and further that from the moment of the completion of the operation of the State effort and expenditure there will be a steady deterioration on these lands by a certain proportion of the new settlers put upon that land?—It is inevitable that a certain proportion in any experiment will go to the wall. At first a great many adverse circumstances will make the percentage rather large, but as the business advances that percentage will be small.

21569. And although the capital has been spent by the State and the arrangements have been made by the State, if they fail you are to do nothing; no man will be allowed to step in, and say—"I wish to have your farm—I am able to manage it; I will buy your

farm." If you put in that condition, that one man is not to be allowed to buy another man's farm, surely you debar yourself from safeguarding the security of the State by preventing these sale operations going on?—I don't think I said that one man was to be prohibited from buying another man's holding, but that amalgamation of holdings should be restricted for a while.

21570. What I want really to get at is whether you agree or do not agree with the evidence we have had here given by one of the Estates Commissioners, which was this. I put a question to him giving the case of a new tenant re-settled upon the land by the State (if such new tenants, for example, "A" is a thrifty man, a persistent worker, attending to his business, and paying his way. "B" is an unthrifty man, spending most of his time sitting upon the wall doing nothing, or loitering in the public-house. I put the question to one of the Estates Commissioners—"Would you prevent 'A' from buying 'B's' farm, and I want to know do you or do you not agree with him in putting such a prohibition on 'A'?"—I think it would be a very wise thing to have a period during which free sale of the holdings and amalgamation should not be permitted.

21571. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Such sales could not operate during the time of the Government's claim?—I take it there is no restriction on anybody buying up a tenant's interest so long as they take up the obligations to the Government.

21572. Sir James FISKEN.—Obviously there must be power to buy somehow, because the only security to the State for the payment of the annuity is the power to re-enter, and dispose of that land. What I meant to get at is, do you want an embargo or veto against a peasant who has been settled by the State—any man going to put a veto on his buying out one of his neighbours?—I quite see the difficulty of the case that you put. Obviously if a purchaser cannot discharge his obligation to the State he must be in a position to sell his interest to somebody else who can. I don't see why the State should not, for a period at any rate, exercise some discretion as to the persons who shall buy that interest. I am considering the case where the holding has been created by the State, and am assuming that in the first instance the State exercised some discretion in the gifting of holdings to migrants.

21573. If you are going to suspend the natural freedom of the people to buy and sell, the hyper-economic holdings you spoke of cannot be created. It cannot be created by a natural process as long as that restriction on the free action of the buyer and seller exists?—In the case I put if the tenant could not discharge his obligation they would allow the thrifty tenant in the neighbourhood to amalgamate the holding, and make a hyper-economic holding if required. I would give the largest discretion to the State in a matter of that kind.

21574. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Putting aside the personality of the purchasers do you recognise that any holders of either of the three classes you have mentioned should have the right to sell the whole or part of his holding?—Not a part.

21575. Not a part. Take the case of money borrowed by the tenant upon his holding?—I think you might leave that to the lender; the State would have the first security.

21576. But having left that to the lender, what remedy would the lender have against the person to whom he lent it?—The ordinary remedy of the law.

21577. He could sell the land?—I suppose he could seize, to begin with, all the available assets, all the movable property, and proceed in the ordinary way for the recovery of his debt, which would rank after the debt to the State.

21578. The result of the whole thing would be that the men whom you would put upon your lowest form of tenure would then be hiring upon still lower, and you would get back pretty nearly to the worst conditions of the congested districts?—I cannot derive any scheme by which—

21579. Oh, no, but you recognise that difficulty?—It is inherent in all human affairs, I am afraid; the imprudent will go to the wall.

21580. Yes; but it does not follow that any settlement we would make to-day would be a permanent settlement?—No; that is absolutely true, but the prospect of permanence can be very largely affected by the principle on which you give out the land.

21581. Mr. BARRY.—Do you wish to propose any

limit to the amalgamation of hyper-economic holdings—I am all the time assisting—

21582. You are assuming an ideal condition of affairs and that things would never change if that ideal condition were once in existence?—May I say that: the question of setting up small holdings in other parts of the United Kingdom has just engaged the attention of a Commission which issued a most interesting report on the subject, and in substance that report shows that even under the most favourable conditions it is extremely hard to make a small holding sound. Although the conditions that you have to deal with on the other side of the Channel are wholly different the difficulties in Ireland are far greater than the difficulties in England or Scotland, and, as I see things, it would require far more attention and control on the part of the Government in Ireland to ensure success. At the same time I hope and think that the control by the Government will be only temporary, but it will be required for a time. Therefore, to answer your concrete question there ought to be a public authority allowed for a time to exercise a guardianship over the peasant proprietary you set up to prevent its becoming an economic wreck before the reformation you had devised had time to be tested.

21583. If you did not by law impose restrictions upon the one side on sub-division or alienation, and on the other side on hyper-amalgamation, don't you think you would eventually find yourself face to face with a state of affairs out of which all the recent legislation has been attempting to rescue Ireland?—I would rather give discretionary powers to public bodies than at this stage of our thought and information prescribe by law what is to be done and what is not to be done. I think it would be far better to have a strongly-constituted public department to deal with the situation.

21584. Would not that public department have to have behind it a tremendous force of public opinion in order to enable it to act at all?—Certainly, that is what we have to create.

21585. I don't know whether in this Memorandum you describe the methods by which that public opinion is to be created?—I have indicated the kind of reasoning that I think would commend itself to many if supported by the report of the Royal Commission.

21586. In the existing conditions of Ireland?—Yes.

21587. With all the seething agitation of the different parties and so on?—If you are going to attempt to deal with one of the most complex and difficult economic and sociological problems by squaring your recommendations with the seething of political parties—

21588. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—That is not what Mr. Bryce meant—I did not understand him to mean that. What I think he meant was how you can, with all this wealth of diverse public opinion, and the desire of the Irish peasantry to hold the land, get behind you a public opinion that will enable you to carry out the principle?—

21589. Mr. BRYCE.—That is what I meant—I entirely agree that without public opinion on your side you cannot solve this question, but I think if you make exhaustive inquiries as you are doing through Ireland, which has never been done before, and if you take time to work out the problem, and if you present us with a comprehensive and a philosophical scheme for dealing with the complex conditions—then in spite of the somewhat difficult condition of public opinion at the moment, we will be able to give effect to your recommendations. The economic thought in the country is growing in a very surprising way.

21590. You speak of the Commission presenting a philosophic scheme. It so, it will, to be of any use, have to be not a scheme in the manner of Plato conformable to ideal patterns laid up in heaven, but a scheme in the manner of Aristotle dealing with the practical possibilities of the actual conditions. All the evidence during this inquiry has gone to show that there will be very considerable difficulty in getting public opinion to approve even of migration of tenants from the very congested parts to the grass lands in the middle of Ireland—that there will be a very strong desire on the part of the people living in the neighbourhood of these lands to get them, and that it will be very difficult to get them to approve of the migration in seeing them of the kind of men that live in Connemara and West Mayo?—That is quite true.

21591. Well, considering you are putting before public opinion an infinitely greater task, that is the task of having it to a Government department to say who shall be allowed to migrate, who is to have an allotment, who is to have an economic holding, and who is to have a hyper-economic holding, it seems to me you are putting before any such public opinion a task which it will be more than ever difficult to handle. I don't see how you are going to get the force of public opinion behind your public authority to enable you to do that. I cannot conceive it. It seems to me an absolutely impracticable thing. Mr. Derran seemed to agree with you that it would be desirable to have a variety such as you describe in the type of holding, and I believe that the Commission is of the same opinion. But to me it seems impossible in the actually existing conditions, even were public opinion behind you, to secure the creation of such variety by artificial means. The more examination of the details of individual cases would prove to be a herculean task, lasting over years, for a gigantic staff. Meanwhile, under your proposals, the settlement of the land would be indefinitely hung up, and when at last it came to be distributed, no one would be satisfied. On the other hand if a settlement be made on the practical basis of existing tenancies, and unless artificial restrictions are imposed, the natural tendency of the free play of economic causes will be towards the variety which you desire?—I don't myself believe that public opinion upon these problems to-day bears any resemblance at all to the public opinion that will prevail in a very few years when for the first time certainly in my life, real thought is being devoted to them. I have never known so much public discussion upon these problems as is taking place to-day.

21592. Meanwhile you are going to leave the discussion of all these points to a Government department?—Yes, certainly. What I chiefly mean to convey to the Commission is this. The Commission might, in my judgment, state frankly and fearlessly what they believe to be the ideal settlement of this problem. They ought to put before those of us who are working upon these problems the object which we should attain as nearly as we can. But to start with the assumption that you are going to be prevented from having a sound system, a system that will be economically and sociologically sound, because public opinion is not educated up to a point where it would tolerate such recommendations, would be a lamentable outcome to this inquiry, and instead of enabling us to improve the economic and social conditions of the country, it would actually retard our progress.

21593. We may start by being Plato, but we may end up by being Aristotle. It may be a very delightful pattern applicable in Heaven of what we want, but it does not follow that in this world we could carry it out, especially in Ireland, and what we shall have to trust ourselves to is not that there should be an ideal state of affairs, but what it is possible to do?—I am not thinking of heavenly settlements, or going outside the bounds of what is possible. I think you must see that what is possible to-day in the matter of land settlement is not desirable; that is to say, if you are going to redistribute land in accordance with public opinion, which is very largely dominated by the parties most interested, there will be a demoralising scramble for land among the agricultural population; but I don't think that will continue when in a thoroughly business-like way you have gone into the question how persons placed to-day upon economic holdings are going to prosper. But I should not now take up more time of the Commission. I should like to repeat that I am under a considerable disadvantage in having to come here to discuss a memorandum which deals with the problem of congestion as a whole, and then have to answer questions upon parts of the problem without reference to the rest. So that I hope that anything I have said to-day will be reconsidered in relation to the statement I have handed in.

21594. The CHAIRMAN.—We have got to sit in private this afternoon and I regret that therefore we shall not be able to hear you further. I wish we had more time?—If at a later stage, when the memorandum which appeared before you to be examined upon has been read, there are any points raised that the Commission wish to hear me upon I shall be glad to submit myself for further examination.

Feb. 22, 1905.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett.

FORTY-SIXTH PUBLIC SITTING.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1907,

AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M.,

At Winchester House, 21, St. James's Square, London, S.W.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLSON, K.C.M.G.; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. R. R. MacGREGOR examined.

Feb. 23, 1907.
Mr. R. R.
MacGregor.

21595. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Would you kindly, for the information of the Commission, state what your position is?—I am Secretary of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland.

21596. Have you been Secretary of that Board since its constitution?—Since its institution in 1897.

21597. I have before me a synopsis of the general character of your evidence, and I suppose you would wish to take it in the order in which it is stated in that Memorandum?—Whatever is the convenient course to the Commissioners.

21598. Then, would you kindly begin and inform the Commissioners to such an extent as you think necessary of the work of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland under the Act of 60 and 61 Victoria, chapter 53?—That is the Act, and the only Act under which the Board operate.

21599. Now, the next point is the determination of a congested district?—The Board, under one of the sections of this Act have power to determine it.

21600. Have you got the Act there?—Yes. Section 10 of the Act says, "The expression 'congested district' means anycrofting parish orcrofting parishes or any area in acrofting parish orcrofting parishes defined by the Commissioners under this Act which they shall, having regard to the population and valuation thereof, determine to be a congested district."

21601. It is discretionary with the Board, and the essential condition is that it shall be acrofting parish, as defined by the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act of 1886. Now, would you kindly, for the information of the Commission, enlighten us as to what constitutes acrofting parish or acrofting area?—Acrofting parish is defined in the Crofters' Holdings Act of 1886. It must be, first, situated in one of thecrofting counties—that is, Argyll, Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, or Zetland. It must be in one of these, and it must have been determined by the Crofters' Commission under the Act of 1886 as fulfilling the conditions of that Act as regards their definition of acrofting parish. As a matter of fact every parish, I believe, in those seven counties is acrofting parish, with the exception of twelve that do not fulfil the definition of the Act of 1886.

21602. You spoke of a Commission. Was it a special Commission appointed to determine what werecrofting counties?—No special Commission; but the Crofters' Commission appointed under the Act of 1886, who have power, with the consent of the Secretary for Scotland, to determine which of the parishes in those seven counties arecrofting parishes.

21603. And was that Commission set up by the Act of 1886?—Yes; set up by the Act of 1886, and it still continues in existence. It is the Land Court for Scotland just now.

21604. And there are seven of those counties then?—Seven counties—yes.

21605. Can you give the Commission any idea of what the population there is according to area, roughly?—Area, 6,735,563 acres; population, 324,577 in thecrofting parishes.

21606. Can you also give us thecrofting population?—I do not believe any one could really give that exactly. From the Census, the rural population in the seven counties is 224,188. These are largelycrofters and persons of thecrofting class.

21607. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Could you get it through the Crofters' Commission?—No; I tried to get it from them, but the Census does not give it further than I have stated.

21608. The Census will not give it?—No.

21609. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Are there in those seven counties areas that come within the operations of your Board, and areas that do not come within their operations?—There are both. There are areas that do not, and there are areas that do.

21610. And you only deal with those areas that do, that are specially declared to be the areas with which you deal at the discretion of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, that is so.

21611. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The area is limited, Mr. MacGregor, is it not, in two ways, first by the area laid down by the Act of 1886?—Yes, that is so.

21612. It is confined to those counties. And then what are calledcrofting parishes were defined within those counties?—What we call congested parishes were determined.

21613. I am talking just now of the part of the Crofters' Act upon which your Act is founded. First of all there is a limitation as to the seven counties, and then to certain parishes inside those counties, so that it is limited really in two ways before it comes to your definition of what a congested district is?—That is so; it must have been acrofting parish in one of the seven counties.

21614. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then the unit you use is the parish?—The unit under the Act of 1886 is the parish. My Board in certain cases exercise a statutory discretion, and take any area of anycrofting parish.

21615. You can divide a parish?—Yes, under the Congested Districts Act.

21616. You have no such unit as an electoral division?—Not in Scotland.

21617. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Then the parish is the unit for rating?—The parish is the unit for rating in Scotland—yes.

21618. There is the county, and then the county is divided into parishes?—The county is divided as follows, with certain exceptions:—The division is first the county; then there are districts in the county. There are certain counties that have no districts, but speaking generally, there is the county, and then the district and the parish.

21619. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But, Mr. MacGregor, the district is really a sub-division of the county for County Council purposes and for no other, but the fact is that in the historical arrangements in Scotland the county and the parish alone were the two areas?—Yes, that is so.

21620. And essentially they are still continued as the statutory areas?—That is the fact.

21621. Sir JOHN COLSON.—And then Clause 19 is not confined to an area which is a parish, but may be a part of a parish in the discretion of the Congested

Districts Board?—They may cut out a certain portion of the parish really, as they have a wide discretion and choice of any district of a parish, and they have in one or two instances done so.

21623. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is that they have taken a settled area within the parish?—They have taken a settled area within the parish.

21624. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You take it as the unit for rating? Do you not arrange a particular rate for the crofters?—No; the Board is not a rating authority in any sense.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The county rates that are applicable to the county are raised by the County Council, and the parish raise the poor rate, the school rate, and under the Parish Councils Act, their own administrative expenses.

21625. Sir JOHN COLVILE.—Now, the next point is the number ofcrofting parishes so determined. In the first place there are 163 parishes in the seven counties.—The total, yes; 163 parishes in the seven counties.

21627. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is the total to which year Act would apply in any circumstances?—No, Mr. Sutherland. Of those, 151 have been declared to becrofting parishes.

21628. Sir JOHN COLVILE.—That is, declared by the Congested Districts Board?—Declared by the Congested Districts Board under the Act of 1886.

21629. I do not know whether it is convenient to ask you now to state the acreage?—The acreage I do not know really of the 163 parishes, but in the 151crofting parishes it is 3,792,563 acres. The next point is that my Board have declared 63 of those parishes or areas within those parishes to be congested districts.

21630. That is 63 of the 151?—Of the 151.

21631. And when you say 63 of them do you mean 63 complete parishes or 63 complete areas, each of which may be part of a parish?—That is so. There are certainly very few of those 63 parishes in which they have only taken up an area in the parish. Well, the acreage of these congested districts is 3,885,794 acres.

21632. That amounts to nearly four millions?—Nearly four millions.

21633. That covers the area over which you operate?—At the present time that is so.

21634. Now, the next point is the population?—Well, the population in the present congested districts is 136,000 in round figures.

21635. Now, the number of separate families?—28,533—almost 30,000.

21636. That is an average of less than six in family?—Yes, that is so.

21637. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Now, Mr. MacGregor, I should like to ask you a question with regard to a point that has arisen in the course of the evidence given before this Commission. A predilection has been expressed by the members of the Congested Districts Board in Ireland and its officials in favour of the Scottish definition of a congested district, because of its elasticity. Have you found it to cover the whole of the case in Scotland, and have you found it an advantage to have this elasticity of definition?—I think that is the experience of my Board.

21638. It has enabled you to pick out a congested area, however small it was?—Yes; in the cases where it was thought necessary to declare an area it was found advantageous to have the power to do so.

21639. For instance, you found when an area applied to you to be declared congested, that while there were a number of small areas of congestion within it, there were in the area large holdings which, if included, would have prevented you from taking it?—Yes, that is so.

21640. Could you tell the Commission to what length you have carried this policy of exclusion?—Yes.

21641. You have a formula, have you not?—That is so. I am reading here from the First Report of my Board, which I will hand in:—"These Highland parishes are of great extent, running up to 200 or 400 square miles in area. In many of them, while a large part of the population consists of members of the class which legitimately comes within the purposes of the Congested Districts Act, still the gross valuation is so far augmented by sporting rents or the rent of large farms, that the valuation per head is raised above the limit fixed by the Irish Act which is not framed to deal with such conditions. Our primary duty therefore as a Board was to devise a test by which we should be guided in determining that certain areas should come within the scope of the Act. After

careful examination of the relative valuation and population of thecrofting parishes and consideration of the circumstances of each as the light of information conveyed to us, as well as of the personal knowledge of members of the Board, we resolved that the test to be applied, in the first instance at any rate, were that the Board should be satisfied that the industrial resources of the locality were insufficient to provide for the needs of its population, and that the valuation (exclusive of the rental obtained from shootings, and from holdings rated at over £30 per annum, and exclusive also of the population on these holdings) did not exceed £1 per head of the population."

21642. Sir JOHN COLVILE.—Would you just enlighten me about this—is not valuation an element in determining the decision of the Congested Districts Board?—By the Act.

21643. Now, your system is so different from ours that I would ask you what do you mean by valuation exclusive of the rental. Would you enlighten us how to take that?

21644. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You use them as synonymous terms, do you not. Sir John asks is there an essential difference between rental and valuation, but you use them as synonymous terms—there is no difference in Scotland?—Yes, there is no difference in Scotland in this connection.

21645. Sir JOHN COLVILE.—I thought you used the phrase "Valuation exclusive of the rental."

21646. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The rental is the valuation and the valuation is the rental?—Exclusive of the rental of shootings. The county assessors in Scotland each year make up what we call a Valuation Roll. In the Valuation Roll there are entered all the subjects which are in the parishes and counties, with the yearly rental of those subjects. That is what we call the Valuation Roll, and the total of all the entries in that Valuation Roll for the parish makes up the valuation of the parish, and of course the total of the parishes is that of the county for the year in which that Valuation Roll is published. Now, in practice, what is done is this. Assuming for a moment that the valuation of a parish was £5,000, and that we looked on looking into it that sporting rents, the rents of large farms, of all subjects rated at over £30, which is the statutory limit of a crofter—that all these amounted, say, to £4,000—

21647. You strike off those large ones?—Strike off the large ones. And suppose for a moment that all these amounted to £4,000, and that the population was 1,500 people, that would bring my Board's valuation out of something like 14s. per head. That would be under their £1.

21648. But with regard to Sir John Colville's point as to valuation and rental. I want to point out the essential part in order to show how the yearly rental becomes the valuation. Is it not the fact that that officer you referred to, called the county assessor, issues at a certain time of the year to every landowner of the county a certain paper that he has to fill up accurately under a penalty of £50 for any error in the Valuation Roll?—Yes.

21649. So that the valuation is the real actual rent?—The real actual rent, and he takes, of course, the necessary steps to make sure that every pound that should be there is there.

21650. And if there is any change during the year the valuation goes up or down next year?—Yes.

21651. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The valuation that the landlord puts on the land?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—No; that actually rests on it. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is that so? Is the rent he puts on the land the valuation?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Yes; he just gives an extract from his book.

21652. Sir JOHN COLVILE.—Not merely what he puts on land held by tenants, but actually the letting value of whatever he has—is not that so?—Yes.

21653. And when you speak of valuation, you are now speaking of what is determined by the proper authority to be the letting value in that particular year, and it is revised every year and brought up-to-date?—That is so. The statutory words are "The yearly rent or value for the time" 17 and 18 Vic., c. 51—the annual letting value of the subject.

21654. I am going to put a hypothetical question to you. Do you think you could work on any reasonable basis with a valuation that was fixed nearly sixty

Vol. 22, 1907.
Mr. R. R.
Manning.

Feb. 22, 1907.
Mr. R. R.
MacGregor.

years ago and never altered?—No; I can easily imagine cases where that would be an extremely high valuation and many others where it would be an extremely low valuation. Circumstances have changed very much. I speak only from my knowledge in regard to Scotland.

21655. Now, as to finances?—Well, I do not really know what the Commission desires to know about that.

21656. Well, we are seeking light from the experience of different laws and different valuations and different circumstances in the working of the Congested Districts Board in Scotland to guide us in forming an opinion as to the circumstances of Ireland. And I think it is important that the Commission should know what funds are under the control of the Board?—Well, the total provision for the Scottish Board under their Act is £35,000 a year, £15,000 of which comes from the Local Taxation account.

21657. £35,000?—£35,000 a year.

21658. And is that the total annual sum that the Board has at its disposal for dealing with an area of nearly 4,000,000 acres and 135,000 of a population?—That is the total sum.

21659. No more?—No more.

21660. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I was just going to ask you if you will kindly tell us whether it is made up of two grants?—Yes. £15,000 is annually available for the improvement of congested districts under the Agricultural Ruses, etc., Act of 1886.

21661. That £15,000 is money that has been already allocated to Scotland for another purpose?—That is so.

21662. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Is not it a Parliamentary grant?—It is; what is called the Local Taxation Fund, a fund which the Secretary for Scotland has at his disposal.

21663. That is £15,000?—Yes.

21664. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The other is a sum voted every year?—A sum not exceeding £20,000, annually voted by Parliament.

21665. Mr. KAYENAGH.—Has it always been that sum of £35,000 a year?—Yes, always. This is the sole and only Act that has been passed in connection with the Scottish Board and no alteration has taken place. That £35,000 has been always the sum.

21666. Mr. KAYENAGH.—You have had no grants?—No; absolutely no grants. Of course, I need hardly mention the repayment of certain loans, rents, &c., because you get your money back again.

21667. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—But you have borrowing powers?—No, we have no borrowing power.

21668. Then you are obliged to make ends meet rather rigidly in your accounts?—That is exactly the situation.

21669. Mr. BRYCE.—I may say that that £35,000 might be reduced if there was an adverse vote in the House of Commons?—Yes, it is a Parliamentary vote.

21670. It is an administrative fund and administered by the office of the Secretary for Scotland?—Yes, that is so, as a matter of fact.

21671. The CHAIRMAN.—Sir John referred to borrowing powers; have you any?—No; there are none.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—(It is like the shales in Ireland.)

21672. The CHAIRMAN.—You mentioned £15,000 just now?—£20,000 a year from all sources.

21673. And you make all your expenditure?—Yes; in Appendix XVII. to the 8th Report of the Board, the expenditure up to the 31st of March, 1906, is given in detail.

21674. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—The Eighth Report?—Yes. The total receipts were, in round figures, £342,978, and the Board spent it all except £20,000 that is £323,000.

21675. And your operations commenced on the 1st of October, 1897?—The 1st of October, 1897, yes.

21676. The CHAIRMAN.—And then your administrative expenditure, is that also in this Report?—The administrative expenses; everything is, up to that date out of the £35,000 a year.

21677. Mr. BRYCE.—I don't quite understand how this works. This Congested Districts Board account is an account for nine or ten years, is it?—That account is from the 1st of October, 1897, to the 31st of March, 1906.

21678. That is nine years?—Eight and a-half financial years.

21679. I see here entered nine times fifteen?—Perhaps you would let me explain that. That is for

the first half-year. During the currency of the financial year 1897-8 the Scottish office paid the Board £15,000 out of their fund, but as a matter of fact the Treasury did not pay the £20,000 because there was then current a vote of Parliament called the Highlands and Islands grant. The Board came into existence in the middle of a financial year and were not on the estimates for that year, and the Treasury could not pay the £20,000.

21680. The CHAIRMAN.—What does your staff work out at?—Do you mean everybody in the employment?

21681. Everybody that is engaged on the Board, everybody employed on the Board. Do you know what it works out at for the expenses and salaries?

21682. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you give it in Appendix XVI.?—Well, Appendix XVI. was for the year 1905-6. Appendix XVII. gives the total. In that year, 1905-6, the salaries were £1,038 for the whole headquarters staff; the Secretary, four clerks, and the engineering staff. Perhaps, I may be allowed to say this, that in certain branches of the office, for instance, the engineering, the expenses are shared with other Departments. The Fishery Board make a contribution towards the engineering; so does the Scottish Office, and also the Local Government Board, and various other things. The total expenditure for that year in these salaries only amounted to £1,028.

21683. Do you know how much a head that works out at?—Owing to the share system it is not quite easy to say, but I will put in a detailed statement for the year 1906-07.*

21684. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You have the princely salary yourself of £1,500?—£2,250 as Secretary now. £250 at first.

21685. And how many engineers?—One, with a Surveyor and two clerks.

21686. Mr. BRYCE.—Have the engineers salaries out of this £1,000?—Yes, but not the local supervision of works; they are paid from the works. There are grants that are made for works.

21687. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—But I make out from Appendix XVI., that calling last year, the total administrative expenditure, that is salaries, travelling expenses, incidental expenses, stationery, postage and railways, only comes to £1,708?—That is so. For the Board and their headquarters staff.

21688. And that is for dealing with an area of nearly 4,000,000 acres and a population of 135,000?—Is not that so?—That is so.

21689. CHAIRMAN.—Perhaps, Mr. MacGregor, you could give us what I asked for now. You might just let me know if you are taking salaries alone how much it works out at?—I will send it to Mr. Callan, a detailed statement of the whole.*

21690. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I think on that statement it is about £109 a head?—About that.

21691. CHAIRMAN.—Then you say you have four clerks?—Four clerks.

21692. What is their position?—They are not regular Civil Servants.

21693. Are they permanent?—No; they are not.

21694. Temporary?—Temporary.

21695. Mr. BRYCE.—They are not pensionable?—They are not pensionable.

21696. CHAIRMAN.—Cannot the Congested Districts Board be abolished?—Yes.

21697. Is not it going to be abolished?—Yes, it is proposed.

21698. And what is going to happen to these gentlemen?—I should hope that they would be retained by the new Land Commission.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is really a consolidating measure. There is a provision in the Bill for taking them on.

21699. CHAIRMAN.—Did they come from any Department?—Well, as a matter of fact, two of the four were in the Civil Service as boy clerks. The opportunity came and I chose them, knowing they were worthy.

21700. Mr. BRYCE.—What departments were you in before?—I was, and am still in the Exchequer.

21701. CHAIRMAN.—How do the salaries paid by the Congested Districts Board compare with the salaries of the other offices in Scotland?—They do not compare favourably with others, because when the Board was instituted it was understood that the thing would be conducted as economically as possible.

21703. Are they on a lower scale, say, than the Scottish Office?—My clerks begin at 250 a year on a scale rising to £300.

21704. They are on a lower scale than the Scottish Office?—Than any office in Edinburgh.

21705. Or the Scotch Office here in London?—Yes. The London Office cannot be compared with those in Edinburgh.

21706. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Twice as well paid for doing the same thing. But how does it compare with the Second Division of the general Civil Service?—In the Second Division they begin at £70 a year.

21707. Is it not a fact also, Mr. MacGregor, that power is reserved under your Act to the Secretary for Scotland to call upon any official in any part of Scotland to do any work he may think fit?—That is so: there is a power to that effect.

21708. And it has been largely used?—It has been largely used.

21709. Mr. BRYCE.—I do not quite understand.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There is power under the Act.

21710. Sir JOHN COLONEL.—What section?—Section 2 (1) of the Act says, "The Secretary for Scotland may also, with the consent of the Treasury, direct any of the officers in any Government department in Scotland to discharge in relation to the Commissioners such duties, not inconsistent with those of their permanent offices, as he may think proper."

21711. Mr. BRYCE.—And it is under that power that you have been taken from the Exchequer?—It is under another clause in the same section:—"The Secretary for Scotland may appoint as Secretary to the Commissioners one of the officers in the department of the Secretary for Scotland or in any Government department in Scotland, and with the consent of the Treasury may assign to him an additional salary." That is the clause under which I personally was selected.

21712. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But the chief power he has is the power to call upon any officer of any public department in Scotland to discharge any duties that are in the nature of the duties of his office at any time he likes?—Yes.

21713. And that has been very liberally and very generously availed of?—Yes, and as I am sure you know, Mr. Sutherland, under that power the Crofters Commission and the Fishery Board have rendered my Board very valuable assistance.

21714. And other Boards also?—Yes.

21715. Sir JOHN COLONEL.—I am amazed at the smallness of the expenses and the limited number of the staff, and I will ask you this question:—Have you found that your practical work which the Board has to do, has been hampered or retarded very seriously by any insufficiency of either money or staff?—No; it would be my duty of course to point out to the Board that useful work was retarded for want of hands to do it. If we have a man to do the work he is called upon to do it. As regards funds generally, that is a much wider question to put, for they might do much more if they had much more money.

21716. Mr. BRYCE.—That is as regards operations?—Yes.

21717. Now, they have no inspectors?—Oh, yes, there are agricultural inspectors and there are inspectors of works.

21718. But in these land operations and migration operations, of course you employ inspectors?—Oh, yes.

21719. Are those people included in that £1,000?—No, not under the salaries under this sub-head. This is a sum for headquarters and secretarial staff.

21720. Now, under what heading do those inspectors appear in your expenses?—For instance in those operations connected with the Kilmuir estate in Skye that you bought?—We have a local staff in Kilmuir. There is a land manager who has an office on the estate in Skye. He has got full charge of that estate and also a general charge over other land.

21721. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Over what other land?—The land schemes of the Board; he has a staff of two clerks in his office in Skye.

21722. And where is that charged?—Under land and migration sub-head.

21723. Mr. BRYCE.—In Appendix XVI. b.—Under land, migration, and other expenditure, you see £18,500.

21724. Yes, I see. What salary does that manager in Kilmuir get?—£300.

21725. And he supervises all the estate operations of the Board?—Yes, if called on to do so.

21726. The whole of them?—Yes.

21727. Of course this has never been on a very large scale, but your total purchases of land have amounted to how much?—Up to the 31st of March, 1905, in the Eighth Report, page x., you will see that the purchases of land up to that date amounted to £113,646 10s.

21728. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—About 50,000 acres?—I think so.

21729. Mr. BRYCE.—Really practically there were only three estates?—Skye in Sutherland; Barra, Glen-dale, and Kilmuir—four estates.

21730. Sir JOHN COLONEL.—The question of land purchase and operations connected with land purchase is the smaller part—at least it is only a part of those general agricultural operations connected with land which an inspector, such as you describe, has power to deal with. He is not confined merely to questions of dealing with estates that have been purchased, but for holdings and various outlays on land strictly in accordance with the purposes of the Act?—Perhaps not so much for adaptation works. The Manager's business is chiefly confined to managing land operations. The engineer looks after these, and really as regards the estate of Kilmuir he is what is called a factor in Scotland.

21731. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—He is in charge, for instance, of the collection of rent during this transition period till your Board adapt the land for sale to the tenants?—That is so, and all the thousand and one little matters that come together.

21732. But as regards the other operations carried on, your Board, I understand, do not deal with individuals. If they are dealing with the improvement of the land they will deal with the landlord, and if they are going to make a road they do not deal with any person; they deal with the road authority?—They deal with the road authority.

21733. So that the duties that Sir John Colonel referred to do not really exist with regard to your management in Skye?—I think so. On the Board's own estate; the manager is truly a land agent.

21734. But he is always available for advice?—Yes.

21735. Mr. BRYCE.—But if you were migrating people he would look after that, would he not?—Oh, yes.

21736. CHAIRMAN.—How does this work out in practice?—What Mr. Sutherland referred to was this, that the land operations of the Board are of two classes. In the one case they buy estates on their own account and re-sell in small holdings; in the other they act with the co-operation of various landlords. A landlord may say, "I want to divide a large farm into so many crofts. If I do so, will you help me by making a road or fences in it, or by lending money to those tenants to build houses or otherwise, and in that way at a small expenditure to you, you would get 20 or 30 crofters, as the case may be, settled there. These people will be my tenants, but you and I together will co-operate to bring about the result." In a case of that sort we would co-operate with him.

21737. How does the landlord co-operate in that case?—Does he provide part of the fund?—No; he does not provide further than this, that he provides the land on which to make the crofts.

21738. He gets rent for that?—Oh, yes; it might be said that he divides a surface that hitherto has been let to one person into twenty small farms, and lets to twenty tenants instead of to one.

21739. But then you provide the money in order that these crofts may be established, and he gets the benefit in the form of rent?

Mr. BRYCE.—You see, he could not afford to go to the expense of dividing the farms and making roads and drains, and all that sort of thing, and, therefore, they would not have been made unless he got assistance from the Crofted Districts Board.

21740. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Part of the money is given for adaptation, that is as a free grant when a large holding that is to be divided has several fences to be erected and roads to be made, and your Board has usually got the full benefit of that?—Yes.

21741. And that is over and above making loans to the tenants for houses?—Quite so.

21742. And the greater number of your operations by far have been on that second system?—Yes.

21743. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you any standard of what we call an economic holding when you are settling these migrants?—Have you any standard of what the size of a farm should be?—Well, no standard.

Feb. 23, 1907.

Mr. R. R.
MacGeorge.

21744. What is the smallest farm?—Well, it depends on local circumstances. They vary so very much. There are districts where men are fishermen or fishermen on racing yachts or cruising yachts, and what they want is a home.

21745. But I am not talking of men of that sort, but of a man who expects to go and live out of a farm that you migrate him to. What size should that farm be?—Well, the size depends on the quality of the land, and therefore people do not look really so much to acreage as rental.

21746. Or what we call valuation?—Quite. But in a certain district, what you might call a self-sufficing holding, would run up perhaps to from £22 to £16 or £26, such a holding as a man could work with the assistance of his family and without having to hire labour.

21747. But will that be 30 acres?—I cannot say, because in some places the quality varies very much.

21748. You have no such standard of size?—Not of size.

21749. The CHAIRMAN.—When you parcel out a holding in the way you describe, do you try to make it self-supporting?—Yes; in the case of the Sutherland estate that was so. The desire of the Board was to divide the land so that people could live off the land. But there are other cases again where they have to suit themselves to the local requirements.

21750. What has been your experience of these migrating people since you put them on these holdings—have they done well?—Well, I am afraid it has been rather mixed.

21751. And can you tell us why they failed. Was it due to the land being less productive, or was it due to the fact that they were not farming well?—It is not very easy to answer that question. It may be that they were put down on land that had been virgin soil for a very great number of years, and the early years of bringing this into cultivation are the difficult years, and it may be, therefore, that those early difficulties have made them less successful than one would hope they should be in future.

21752. You put them on land that was practically virgin soil?—In the case of the Sutherland estate, the land had been part of a sheep farm from time immemorial.

21753. What effect had that?—It made it extremely difficult land to cultivate.

21754. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Crops did not rise?—No; and it took three or four years to bring it really into good heart for cultivation.

21755. The CHAIRMAN.—Was that grass land or heather, or mixed heather and grass?—The tillage ground is mainly grass by the river. It is along the banks of the fishing river Naver in Sutherland.

21756. Now, did not the experiment made in Sutherland of setting crofters fail?—To a great extent, yes. I presume you allude to the reclamation scheme by the late Duke of Sutherland near Loch Shin.

21757. Why did that fail? Was that due to the land or to the people?—I do not know sufficient of it to say why it did not succeed, but it was an extremely costly experiment.

21758. Mr. BAYNE.—That estate that you bought on the Naver is getting right, is not it?—I hope so.

21759. How long is it since you bought it?—About six years.

21760. So it is hardly time yet to be sure about it—am the people in pretty good heart about it?—Some are and some are not.

21761. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you got the original people there that you put on it?—No; several have gone.

21762. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How many have left, otherwise than by death?—Out of twenty-three just two.

21763. And had you any difficulty in getting them replaced?—No difficulty whatever.

21764. Is it the fact that you were limited as regards the selection of tenants?—I don't know whether by the seller of the land or by your own Act—that the people should belong to Sutherlandshire?—That was one of the conditions of the sale.

21765. And that they would have to be people who were giving up holdings elsewhere in congested places?—Yes.

21766. So that your choice of tenant purchasers for the new land was limited by those two conditions, which considerably limited the area and the qualities of the people you had to select?—Yes, undoubtedly.

21767. Out of twenty-three only two practically have what you might call failed, yet?—Only two have yet left otherwise than by death.

21768. And by far the most critical part of the experiment has been passed, and during this time they have built houses worth two or three hundred pounds?—Yes.

21769. And they have stocked the land with many thousands of sheep, have they not?—Yes.

21770. Yes, and scores of cattle, and yet they have survived all that process?—Yes.

21771. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—The migrants?—Yes.

21772. Mr. BAYNE.—What is the nature of these holdings—thousands of sheep on a common grazing ground, or is there a separate sheep run attached to each croft?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The ground extends to 15,000 acres?—The ground extends to 12,000 acres. These are the particulars which I hand in.*

21773. Mr. BAYNE.—Are those pasture out-runs held singly or in common?—Each of these men these holdings individually a part of the land, and with the part of the land he also holds individually what is called an out-run. He has a share—a thirty-fourth, if he has a small holding, or two thirty-fourths if he has a large holding—of the great hill pastures for live stock, which is managed as a club-stock.

21774. The CHAIRMAN.—I think we had some of that in Donegal. They club together?—Yes, that is so.

21775. These three people have three distinct kinds of holding. They have got a croft holding, a tillage holding, themselves; a little sort of a private grazing run; and a common run for the whole lot?—That is so.

21776. Mr. BAYNE.—The private grazing ground is usually for their cattle?—Yes.

21777. Is it reclaimable ground?—It is reclaimable ground; certain parts of it.

21778. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Then the land that has been spoken of as virgin soil upon which these crofters have been settled, did you buy that really?—Yes.

21779. You spoke of it as having been from time immemorial a grazing land. Was that due to the fact that it paid better as grazing land?—It was a large sheep farm called Syre, and had been let as a sheep farm for a considerable period, and the Board made an arrangement with the Duke of Sutherland to buy 12,000 acres which they thought suitable land for their purpose, along the Naver.

21780. Mr. BAYNE.—Was not this land from which crofters had been evicted in the great evictions of the 'Hunties and 'Forties?—Oh, yes.

21781. It had originally been crofter land?

21782. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Therefore, I take it as your wish to qualify your statement that it had been grass land from time immemorial. I take it as limited to this that it had been grass land since the period of 1840?—Yes, that is so.

21783. Well, was the fact that it went back from tillage to grass due to the economic fact that it paid better in grass than in tillage?—Well, I cannot say.

21784. Now, tell me, is not the valuation of all land, including grass, its letting value from year to year—its net?—Yes.

21785. Now, can you tell me has the valuation of grazing land in Scotland been going up or going down, or stationary?—I cannot say.

21786. Can you tell me from what Department we could get that information?—I should think the Local Government Board would be able to tell.

21787. But taking your large operations under the Act, do the transactions that you carry on show that you are paying more now for grass land than you did at first?—Well, my Board have only bought four estates, and I should think there was no particular change.

21788. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you know the circumstances of this Syre estate before your Board bought it?—Not well enough.

21789. But you must remember that transaction perfectly well. You know that this estate was a farm; that Syre was given up by the previous tenant; that he only offered half the rent, and that it was recent for three years before we could get it, because it could not be let?—Yes, I have heard so.

21790. Well, does not that indicate that the price of that land was going down?—That would, but, as I say, I do not know the facts sufficiently well.

21791. But do you know these facts that I have stated now?—Oh, yes. I know that there was a difficulty in getting a tenant for the big sheep farm.

* See pp. 293-4.

21791. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I want to ask you this. You deal with general problems of congestion, and as far as the individual is concerned, with any holder up to £20 valuation within the cotter areas. The only persons excluded from your Board's scheme of operations in such areas are those of over £30 a year valuation. Well, £30 is the maximum limit of a cottager cotter, and I should like you to say whether there is anything to prevent your Board, if they bought estates, from dividing them up into still larger farms?—As far as I know there is nothing to prevent them dealing with their lands in any way that they consider to be the very best advantage possible.

21792. Tell me, Mr. MacGregor, when you put these people on these lands do you find them, on the whole satisfactory or not?—Oh, they are a very good class of people.

21793. Your Board select them as carefully as they can?—Oh, yes; they are carefully selected, and your colleague was one of the selectors in that case. Mr. Sutherland knows, as I know, how very carefully he and his colleagues selected the people.

21794. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But I must ask you to state also that we were under the operation of the condition, which we willingly accepted, that the tenants were to be people moved from other congested parts of the estate; so we were limited to that extent. We were perfectly willing to accept the condition, and I suppose we suggested it ourselves, that it would be well to get the tenants from places on that larger estate that were congested, and therefore relieve the congestion?

The CHAIRMAN.—And that was the reason it was confined to men from the Sutherland estate?

21795. Mr. BEYCE.—There is a clause in this paper with a description of what you call a single and double holding, and so on?—Yes.

21796. The CHAIRMAN.—But the reason you took them from Sutherland was that that condition was part of the terms of the arrangement with the landlords, not because you feared that if you brought them from Ayrshire or any other county there might be local friction?—Well, you see, the Board could only migrate people from congested districts.

21797. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The idea of the whole of our Act is to relieve congestion. Mr. MacGregor, is not it?—That is so.

21798. And are we only migrating as a part of the relief of congestion?—The words are, "Assisting the migration of cottagers and cotters from congested districts to other districts of Scotland," so that necessarily the man who is migrated must have been a resident in a congested district. You can take a man from a parish in Sutherlandshire to Ayrshire, but then you could not take a man from Ayrshire to a congested district.

21799. The CHAIRMAN.—You cannot buy outside the congested areas?—Buy anywhere in Scotland, but land so bought does not *ipso facto* become a congested district, and if outside land the Board cannot do anything for the small tenants resident on it at the time of purchase. That is one of the hampering things in our Act. It is not in the Act of the Irish Board. They have power to buy outside the congested areas, and land thus bought becomes "congested," but in Scotland it is not so, and that has, I am sorry to say, hampered the Board.

21800. The CHAIRMAN.—You can get an Order in Council, I think, Mr. Mitchell, to make an additional area. Is not that so?

Mr. Mitchell (Secretary of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland).—Yes, my lord.

21801. The CHAIRMAN.—You can only deal with people of under £5 valuation.

Mr. Mitchell.—The Board have only power to enlarge a holding on the ground that it is a holding not exceeding a valuation of £5.

21802. The CHAIRMAN.—That is outside a scheduled area?

Mr. Mitchell.—Yes.

21803. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Mr. MacGregor, you can hand in a statement showing where you have settled the migrants on the land you have described, showing the valuation of the holding, and showing the valuation of the individual holding from which the migrant was taken, and the valuation of the holding into which he was put?—My own recollection just now is that most of the migrants of the Board have not been cottagers at all, but cotters, because the congestion of the highlands of Scotland is not due so much to the

insufficiency of the holding of a cottager as to the fact that there are another set of people living on the land who are called cotters.

21804. Will you describe exactly for our information what is the difference between a cottager and a cotter?—Well, the difference is this, that the cotter really is the tenant of the croft. He is the man that pays the rent for it to the landlord. On that croft there are places where there may be a second house, inhabited by a cottager, or there may be in the single house of the cotter a cotter living, and sometimes the cottager's family, that is two families living in the same house. It is really in that way that the cotter is the freeholder, and he is the man that it is desirable to treat. He lives on the croft, and he has a wife and children, and he may have a separate amount of stock, and I think, speaking from recollection, that most of the migrants of the Board have been of the cotter class.

21805. Then what guarantee have you got or what means have you got of taking care that the vacancy created by the removal of the cotter is not filled up by somebody else?—That is what the Board look very carefully after.

21806. What power have you got?—The Board has power by agreement with the owner of the croft.

21807. The landlord?—The landlord. The landlords are, as a rule, very anxious indeed to get quit of the cotter.

21808. Then the only guarantee you have got is an agreement with the landlord that he will remove the cotter and stop sub-division, and he, on his part, enters into an agreement with you that he will not allow it to be re-established?—Yes, that is so. The cotters' houses have been knocked down.

21809. Then, he knocks down the houses?—Yes, in some cases, and the Board help him in the act of destruction.

21810. The CHAIRMAN.—How did this cotter get there?—That is in quite a variety of ways, my lord. The cotter may be the son of the cotter. He marries and he takes possession of a part of his father's house. He may build a new wing to it, and he and his family then live there, or he may build a separate dwelling on the croft. There are all sorts of ways, but generally, I think as a rule, they are relatives of the cotter.

21811. Mr. BEYCE.—In fact, it is the same thing as the Irish sub-division?—Yes.

21812. Only it is never in Scotland extensively with the consent of the landlord?—No.

21813. Sir JOHN COLSON.—But then, Mr. MacGregor, in Scotland a landlord has power and restrictions over the cotter tenants such as to enable him to carry out his agreement with the Board?—He is a perfectly free man as regards dealings with his tenants in this respect.

21814. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—No, he has to pay compensation. I want to get this out. Is not that so?—Well, under the Cotters' Holdings Act of 1886 it is a penal condition of the tenure that there should be no sub-division. I should not like to say that there has been no sub-division since 1886, but at any rate, subject to this that the men who were cotters before 1886 may under the Cotters' Act of 1886 get compensation for their disturbance or removal, I don't know anything to prevent the landlord from doing away with the cotter on any croft he has established.

21815. The CHAIRMAN.—I suppose the cotter's attitude towards the cotter is that of recognition of the fact that property has its responsibilities as well as its rights?

Sir JOHN COLSON.—I want to make this quite clear. By the action of the Congested Districts Board you relieve sub-division by removing the cotter. Then, is the only guarantee you have that that vacancy so created cannot be filled up again by another cotter, that of the landlord? Has the landlord in Scotland the power, if the cotter insists upon sub-division, to proceed against him?—That is so. The cotter who sub-divides under the Act of 1886 does so at his own peril.

21817. And as the general public feeling in Scotland in those districts you are dealing with is really in favour of sub-division, has this become so much a custom that it is very difficult for the landlords to stop it?—It is very difficult to stop it, but it is not for me to say what the general feeling is. I have heard people say that public opinion was strongly against the creation of cotters, but I am afraid that whatever the general opinion may be, when the thing comes to a question of individual opinion—I mean

Vol. 22, 1907.

Mr. R. F. MacGregor.

Feb. 22, 1907,
Mr. R. R.
MacGregor.

if a man has his own son to provide for, he may choose to do it, even though the general opinion is against him. It is a very serious problem indeed in some districts. In Lewis, for instance, the cottar question is a very serious one.

21818. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In fact, Lewis is the only district in which there is a cottar question—I presume that is so—to a very serious extent.

21819. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Suppose the landlord does not fulfil his obligation. Suppose the landlord, having entered into the obligation, another landlord may succeed him, and supposing the obligation broken and cottars have gone in to fill the vacancies created by the Board, what redress have you got?

21820. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I think you are assuming a case that does not exist. There is really no subdivision in Scotland at all. The landlord does not recognise the cottar at all, and he pays no rent to him!—He pays no rent to him.

The CHAIRMAN.—He is a crofter's lodger.

21821. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—That does not alter my view. You may call him "lodger" if you like. I ask what guarantee is there that, having migrated one lodger, another lodger does not come in? We are told the crofter has an agreement with the landlord. Now, I want to know if the other lodger comes in, is there any redress?

21822. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They are not lodgers. They have separate houses—I prefer to answer that by saying that, so far, the question has not arisen.

21823. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—And having removed the cottar and the house having been pulled down, there is redress if another cottar comes in? Do you go so far as that?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There is. To be quite honest, there was one case where the house was practically ruined to the ground, and a man did take possession of the stones, and cut of them, with almost incredible activity, he did erect a house.

21824. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Was there any redress?—Well, we got the landlord to put him out.

21825. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You got the landlord to keep to his bargain?—Yes.

21826. And the house was pulled down?—Yes.

21827. That was in Barra?—Yes, it was in Barra.

21828. That was the only case?—Yes, and so far, the Board have no reason whatever to think that the arrangement has not been loyally carried out!

21829. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is your Board going on with migration operations now—have they been encouraged to continue them?—Oh, yes, that is so. Want of funds to find more land has been a drawback. At the present moment they would be very glad to settle migrants.

21830. From your experience you would continue it if you had funds to do so?—Yes.

21831. You recommended it—I certainly think that the sub-division of farms by a landlord like Sir Arthur Ode has been very successful indeed.

21832. Under your operation?—You mean sale?

21833. Yes!—Of course that introduces a much wider question as to whether public opinion in Scotland is quite ripe enough yet to go in for purchase.

21834. You are not going on any more with that?—At the present moment the Board cannot very well do so because there was a bill last session before Parliament which, I understand, is to be re-introduced this session, which greatly alters the proposals of the Government, and there is not much use in the Congested Districts Board going on at the present moment under their own Act. People will say, "We prefer to wait and see what Parliament will do."

21835. Mr. BAYNE.—Yes, but in the past would you say whether these operations have been successful or not where you bought an estate. Mention has been made of the case of Kilmuir?—In the case of Kilmuir one cannot say yet, because nothing final has been done to sell it by the Board. The question of valuation of the holdings has just been settled by the Crofters' Commission.

21836. One hears a common complaint about the high price which makes it impossible for us to redress of the broken up farms at reasonable prices!—Yes, but where there is a settlement—

21837. The reason I say you don't agree with it!—I don't agree with it. I don't know enough yet to say, because at the present moment the valuation of this land is a matter that is under the consideration of the Crofters' Commission. The people

of Kilmuir have applied to the Crofters' Commission to have their land re-valued.

21838. That is the existing tenants upon the estate?—Yes.

21839. Before your re-distribution operations have commenced?—Yes.

21840. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—We are waiting to have this re-valuation settled. The tenants complained that the old valuation is too high, and they asked to be allowed to come before the Commission again, and your Board agreed to that?—Yes.

21841. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—When you talk about the valuation, you have given it to us in evidence that the valuation is the same as the letting value, and now I ask what do you mean by the old valuation?—The Crofters' Commission is the Land Court of Scotland, and they fix under their Acts fair rents for these holdings. The rents fixed at fair rents under the Acts are not subject to revision for seven years. At the end of seven years it is open to the landlord or to the crofter to go back to the Commission again and ask for a new valuation to be fixed.

21842. That is in Scotland, a fair rent is at all events a valuation fixed for seven years?—Yes. The valuation.

21843. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It was like this, Mr. MacGregor. It was at the end of what in Ireland would be called the first term valuation, and the Board were struck with the fact, were they not, and they and the tenants agreed that they should make out a second term valuation?—Yes.

21844. And that is actually being done now, and being made the basis of this sale?—Yes.

21845. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—And when made that becomes the Poor Law valuation for seven years from that date?—From that date.

21846. And seven years after that date re-valuation will take place, and you can let again according to the letting valuation?—The fair rent must stand for seven years. It may last longer, if no one gets the Commission to alter it.

21847. At the expiration of seven years from the fixing of the rent, then, the tenant will be like anybody else. His valuation would be fixed upon the letting value?—No.

21848. Mr. BAYNE.—There is no free letting of these crofts. The croft can only be held by the man already in occupation?—He has got fixity of tenure.

21849. Mr. BAYNE.—Fixity of tenure? It is a question of fixing the fair rent by the Court, but there is no market for the croft itself?—Not if the crofter remains in it and fulfils his obligations.

21850. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Then the position is this, that when the crofter tenant has had his rent fixed it fixes his valuation as well?—That has been decided in Scotland, that the fair rent fixed by the Crofters' Commission is the valuation for the croft.

21851. But in the case of every other tenant, or every other owner of property, is the valuation the letting value?—Yes.

21852. So that they constitute a class by themselves subject to a difference of law as to valuation?—Under exceptional circumstances created by the Act.

21853. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There is an exception even there. Take the case of a farm held on a long lease. The value of it might be put up to auction. It might vary in value from year to year, but during the currency of the lease the rent stated therein would be the valuation?—Yes. Of course there are exceptional circumstances.

21854. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But otherwise Sir John is perfectly correct?—Yes, speaking generally.

21855. CHAIRMAN.—Tell me now about your agricultural operations! Do you do all the work of the improvement of agriculture in the congested districts?—Yes, there is no other public body. Speaking generally, these crofters are, perhaps, rather pastoral farmers than agricultural farmers, and it was the desire of the Board to improve their stock as much as they could, and they have done so by giving them, under certain conditions, as good stock as they could obtain for them.

21856. There is no other department in Scotland that does any work of this kind? The whole of the responsibility falls on the Congested Districts Board?—Well, of course, the Board of Agriculture operates in Scotland as well as in England.

21857. Has the Board of Agriculture no responsibility in these congested districts?—Yes, there is jurisdiction, as I understand, all over Scotland, and I know as a matter of fact that they have con-

Feb. 25, 1907.
—
Mr. R. R.
MacGregor.

deduced various experiments in the very estate at Kilmuir which is owned by the Board.

21854. Do you both provide bulls?—Oh, they don't do anything of that kind.

21855. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They send down inspectors?—Yes, they send down inspectors, for example, about the various illnesses of sheep. I don't think the Board of Agriculture, either in England or Scotland, actually do things for the individual or even for groups of individuals. They don't provide bulls, or rams, or stallions, or give them anything of that sort.

21860. CHAIRMAN.—All that is done by you?—Yes, for the congested districts.

21861. You say they don't do these things? Is it laid down that they shall not do it, or is it merely left to themselves?—Well, I don't know. I don't know of any case of overlapping. I do know that the inspectors of the Board of Agriculture often have spoken to me of the common object of sheep-dipping, for instance, and various matters of that sort, that they issue orders about and that they expect my Board to help them in congested districts to carry out.

21862. If this Bill before Parliament passes is it proposed that these things should be given over to the Board of Agriculture?—All the powers of the Congested Districts Act and the Crofters' Holdings Acts are to be transferred to this new Land Commission. There was in the Bill of last year power given to the Secretary of Scotland to create one or two additional Commissioners who should be the Board of Agriculture for Scotland. That was in the Bill of last session.

21863. Appoint whom?—Appoint one or two more Commissioners members of the Land Commission. There were five Land Commissioners provided for in the Bill, and then there was power given to appoint one or not more than two extra Commissioners who should be the Agricultural Commissioners for Scotland, and to those men the Scotch power of the Board of Agriculture would be given.

21864. Does your Board of Agriculture only date from last year?—Oh, no. I am talking of what was in the Bill of last session.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The English Board of Agriculture has jurisdiction in Scotland.—

21865. CHAIRMAN.—When you talk of the Board of Agriculture making experiments in those districts and sending down inspectors you talk of the English Board of Agriculture?—Yes, the people who have their office in St. James's Square.

21866. You have no local Board of Agriculture for Scotland?—That is so. It is the same Board whose offices are at St. James's Square.

21867. Then the Bill of last session was to found a Scotch Board of Agriculture. What happened to that Bill?—It did not pass last year.

21868. Mr. BAYNE.—Is it not a fact, Mr. MacGregor, that there is considerable feeling in Scotland against the creation of that Agricultural Board for Scotland?—I have seen in the papers very strong expressions of opinion that it should not be created. I think the general feeling in Scotland among farmers was that it was better that the jurisdiction in Scotland should remain to the English Board.

21869. CHAIRMAN.—If the Congested Districts Board was abolished who in future is going to provide bulls and rams?—The Land Commission, I presume.

21870. The Land Commission?—Yes.

21871. Are not they rather peculiar people to do that particular work? Is it not rather peculiar to hand work of that kind over to the Land Commission?—That is the proposal as I read it in the Bill.

21872. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was this work of the Congested Districts Board meant to be permanent?—There is nothing in the Congested Districts Act to suggest that it was to be permanent.

21873. And with regard to the Board's practice. Was it not the fact that they supplied these aids for a few years and then withdrew and that they never would go back; that they simply contented themselves with introducing the new strain and improving the blood?—As practical business men they wanted people to understand that it was their desire to help them to a better state of things which they themselves should then keep up.

21874. So it was never meant to be a permanent thing?—It was never meant to be permanent in any one congested district.

21875. I may point out the fact that it was never meant to be permanent and as an instance I mention

that they have already ceased to give assistance in this respect to the localities to which they gave it first and they have transferred their attention to other places?—That is a fact.

21876. It was never meant to keep these districts supplied with aids continually?—No, no.

21877. It was only intended to give them help for a while?—Yes, to raise them to a certain standard.

21878. Mr. KAYNOR.—Did you let them out to farmers?—Not to farmers, but to crofters and cottars.

21879. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And in doing that you acted through a statutory local committee?—Yes.

21880. It is called the Grazing Committee?—Yes.

21881. Under an Act of Parliament?—Yes.

21882. CHAIRMAN.—Then I see you have got some system for training boys and girls from congested districts?—Yes, that is so. It seemed to the Board that under their powers of relieving congestion it was possible for them to take boys and girls from the congested areas and apprentice them in such places as shipbuilding yards on the Clyde, and for training young women to be domestic servants. Objection was taken to these powers and the Auditor-General reported to the Public Accounts Committee that in his opinion it was a wasting of their powers and that he thought they could not do it. The Public Accounts Committee, however, did not say yes or no and accordingly the Board are still continuing to bring the lads out and to put them to trades, and so bring the young women up for training to the Board's house in Aberdeen.

21883. The Public Accounts Committee did not express any opinion that it was contrary to law, but they said the Board were wasting their powers?—No; the Auditor-General said the Board were wasting their powers; he said that to the Public Accounts Committee, that in his opinion the Board had not the power, they contended they had, but the Public Accounts Committee simply said nothing one way or the other.

21884. When was this?—It was on the account for 1904-5; their deliverance ought to be given somewhere in the course of 1906.

21885. So that pending their communication you go on?—We go on.

21886. Despite the Auditor-General?—Well, the Board passed for a few months to see what the Committee of the House of Commons said to the views of the Auditor-General, but as they said nothing they assumed that there was a good deal to be said for the views of the Board.

21887. What do you do exactly? In what way do you finance these boys?—Well, shortly we do this. We get a nomination for a lad as an apprentice in one of the big ship-building yards—I mentioned the Clyde—as a joiner, a shipwright, or an engineer, as the case may be. To keep that lad in Darnley, or Greenock, or wherever his yard is, his board and lodgings have, of course, to be paid. The Congested Districts Board give that lad enough to supplement his wages, so that he can pay for his board and lodgings; that is all.

21888. Do you pay apprentice fees?—There are none. These people have been very good indeed on the Clyde. We pay nothing to them.

21889. They take the boys for nothing?—They take the boys for nothing. The only exception is in one trade where there is a custom and there a couple of pounds are paid by the boy for what is called his lodging.

21890. His lodging?—Yes; that is the only thing.

21891. Tell us about the girls?—The girls' home is in Aberdeen. The Board rent a house in Aberdeen, and they have a lady superintending there. It is not a large place. It holds twelve girls, and they are taken up there from the congested districts, and are trained actually in the house as domestic servants.

21892. And the expenses of that home are borne by the Board?—Yes, by the Board.

21893. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How much would it be per annum?—I should not like to say just now.

21894. About £300 per annum?—I should not like to say without having the figures by me. The total expense, including furnishing, for twenty months, is £253.

21895. CHAIRMAN.—Do you find any difficulty in getting the boys and girls to leave the districts?—No great difficulty in getting boys. I could get twice the number of boys, but very great difficulty in getting young women.

Feb. 22, 1907.

Mr. J. J. Macgregor.

21896. Why is that? Do their people object, or do they object themselves?—I really don't know. I never have been able to satisfy myself why it is that young women are so much less ready to go out than their brothers are.

21897. But what is the reason given when you seek them?—One reason is this. We cannot take any young women until they reach a certain age. There is little use taking a girl if we hope to get her a good education unless she is at least sixteen years of age, and by that time most of these young women have got some other local occupation. For instance, every Lewis girl has got many opportunities to get employment in connection with the fishing. Great numbers of young women are employed in connection with that; that is one difficulty, and the age is the next difficulty.

21898. Why cannot you teach these things in their own locality?—The Board have no power to give technical instruction in the congested districts. A Bill was introduced into Parliament to give them power to do so. It was pretty vehemently opposed on that very point, and never became law.

21899. Why should it be opposed?—That, of course, I cannot say.

21900. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Do you mean opposed by the representatives of Scotland?—It was opposed very strongly by one or two members from Scotland. As a matter of fact, it never became law. Therefore the Board have no power to give technical instruction in the congested districts. The Auditor-General's point was—“That is all very well, but what you are now doing is you are giving them technical instruction.”

21901. CHAIRMAN.—Do you mean to say you could not establish a lace class like what they have in Ireland?—Possibly. I should not like to say a lace class, because there is authority to aid any home industries, and that subject might come in there.

21902. Cannot you call cooking a home industry?—No.

21903. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The reason is, it is not, that all these subjects you are attempting to teach in Aberdeen are an ordinary part of the local educational curriculum all through Scotland?—That is so.

21904. The Education Department say—“We are not going to allow that education to be carried out in Scotland except through us.”—Yes.

21905. That was the position taken up by the Scottish members of Parliament who opposed it?—Yes.

21906. Is not it a reasonable thing to say that there is no good accommodation for these girls to learn all these things at Stromway as in Aberdeen?—Yes, except that the local people say that they have not got funds or buildings.

21907. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But they can assess themselves the same as other people do.

Mr. BAYNE.—If they are already assessed at 20s. in the £. The assessment in the Lewes is highest in the whole United Kingdom; it is about 20s. in the £.

21908. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is not there a sufficiently good reason why both the Education Department and other people in Scotland would wish the concentration of authority to be kept?—I think that is so.

21909. There is a perfectly good explanation in the reason that they don't see why a new body should be set up dealing with subjects which other bodies already are perfectly competent to deal with?—That is so; but the fact is that the Board have no power to give help in technical instruction in congested districts.

21910. The CHAIRMAN.—If that is the reason why they are not allowed to do it, have the educational authorities themselves made any attempt to provide the instruction which they refuse to allow you to give?—The educational authorities are quite prepared, as I understand, to do for the Congested Districts what they do for other districts, that is to say, give grants for these subjects, but what the local people in places like Lewis say is: “We cannot get these grants because we have no money to build schools, or equip schools so as to enable us to earn these grants.” They could not, for instance, build a laundry. They have no funds enough to do that; and they cannot get from the Education Department, as I understand it, the grants for laundry work unless they show that young women can wash and iron.

21911. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The grants are given contingent on the condition that the local authorities provide certain means. The local authority say it has no money to do that, and, therefore, they don't get the grants, and therefore the teaching is not given in the district?—Yes.

21912. The CHAIRMAN.—Then, you have trained boys in seamanship?—Yes. That is a part of the system of training and apprenticeship. Curiously enough that has been a failure.

21913. How do you carry it out?—There is a training institution at Liscard, near Liverpool, where the boys are taken, and after a year in this training home they are then sent away in sea-going ships.

21914. What did you do; did you give a grant to this place?—Yes. The authorities at Liscard Institution came to an arrangement with us whereby if the Board paid £25 with each lad they would keep him and teach him and equip him for a year in their home and then get him a berth in some sea-going ship.

21915. Sir JOHN COLSON.—As a matter of fact, there were only five applicants, and two were physically unfit?—There were only those lads accepted altogether.

21916. CHAIRMAN.—Was that because you could not get the boys on account of the £25?—No; we could not get the boys. The £25 was the offer of my Board. They were prepared to pay that up to any reasonable number of lads, and they could not get them.

21917. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—So you have dropped that?—It has dropped itself.

21918. Mr. KAVANAGH.—At what age had the boys to go there?—Not exceeding seventeen. They do not take them after 17, but they were prepared to take them as young as 14.

21919. The CHAIRMAN.—At what age do they send them to the Clyde?—From 15 up to 17, when they want strong lads.

21920. Would not you say that by seventeen a boy would probably have got other employment elsewhere, and that that would be a reason against getting boys at the age of seventeen?—That might be so, but I cannot say that I have found that the age has much to do to it. In the case of ship's carpenters, for instance, you would need strong lads of about seventeen, and we have got a great number of them of that age.

21921. Would they have gone to be trained as seamen if the institution you wished to send them to had been in Scotland?—Really, I don't think that has had anything to do with it.

21922. The next point is in reference to fishing. Do you provide boats as they do in Ireland, or not?—No. The power that are given to make loans to fisheries in Scotland are under the Crofters Act, 1886, given to the Fishery Board.

21923. They look after the provision of boats and make loans for the purpose; you have not got charge of that?—No. My Board have not done so.

21924. What do you do with regard to fishing?—Do you and the Fishery Board both operate in the Congested Districts with regard to fisheries?—We are entirely in concert.

21925. You both have the congested districts under you?—The Fishery Board have all Scotland under them. The Congested Districts Board have, of course, their own portion of it, but the Chairman of the Fishery Board is ex-officio a member of the Congested Districts Board.

21926. How much money have you been spending on fishery matters lately?—We have spent about £8,000 altogether.

21927. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—This only means grants for piers, does not it?—No.

21928. What are these grants that make up the other expenditure with regard to fisheries?—The fishing villages at Battery Park, near Stromway. Motor transport and steamers—the “Pioneer” and minor motor.

21929. In fact, with regard to the development of fisheries, a sum of £30 in connection with the subsidising of a steamer, represents what they have expended in nine years?—The only loan in that account, but it was not for a steamer. You know how little room there is for aid in the case of the fisheries of Scotland, which are so commercial boats.

21930. The fisheries of Scotland don't require to be developed?—Not by the Board.

21931. The CHAIRMAN.—You don't do much, owing to the Fishery Board?—Yes, and in view of the fact that fishing in Scotland is a business to which keen commercial business men devote all their energies.

21932. The CHAIRMAN.—Is that so in the congested areas also?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Yes. Wherever there is the slightest chance of there being fishing in Scotland you may be perfectly certain that these men who are eager to invest their capital in it will be only too glad to do so; that is the fish buyers.

21933. The CHAIRMAN.—Is the fishing in places like Lewis worked with capital from places like Aberdeen?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Yes, and local capital. The great work of fishing fishermen there is done by local joint stock banks. We keep a register in our office in Edinburgh of every boat that is mortgaged. Under an Act of Parliament passed recently they have to send in copies of the mortgage to us, and we have to enter it in a book which shows at any time how that boat stands, and it would astonish anyone to see the extent to which these local banks favour these fishermen. It is safe to say that it is not less than £20,000 a year.

21934. Mr. BRYCE.—What kind of margin will the bank advance on for fishermen? Suppose a boat is worth £600 or £800, how much will the bank advance for the purchase or construction of that boat?—That is not a matter that comes under my notice.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—About 75 per cent.

21935. Sir JOHN COLVILL.—I see in your 8th Report, at page 24, reference to a proposal made to you as regards motor traffic for the development of the fishing industry, and you are in hopes, as I understand it, of making some arrangements to promote motor traffic from remote districts with the view of facilitating the getting of lobster and other fish to market?—That is so.

21936. Just tell us briefly about that; what you are doing, or contemplating?—During the year 1906 experiments were tried on four separate motor routes in the County of Sutherland. The Committee presided over by Lord Mansfield gave it as their view that in certain districts on the north coast of Scotland it would be a great advantage for fishermen to have ready means of access to market to assist in developing the fisheries. My Board thought that was a matter that they could do. Accordingly they did make arrangements with the motor people on four routes in the county. That was carried out during the year 1906. I am sorry to say, so far results have not proved that these motor cars have in any way been a help. They have not developed fishing. There were not more fish in the market in 1906 than during the average year for a period before that.

21937. Providing this means of transit, as I understand it, had special reference to lobster fishing?—Yes. It was not confined to it.

21938. So far as it has gone it cannot be said to be successful?—There was no manifest effect in the quantity of lobster put on the market.

21939. Another point I would like to ask you about is that of auxiliary motor power for fishing boats, which is mentioned in the same page. As I read it there have been experiments tried with a boat called the Pioneer?—Yes.

21940. Can you tell us anything about that?—There was a strong opinion expressed that if a convenient motor engine could be fitted in the existing fishing boats it would be a very desirable thing, as it would enable them to get to and from the fishing grounds in calm, and accordingly, under the advice of Commander Cunningham of the Royal Navy, the Board agreed to provide funds to fit a motor called the Dan motor in the Pioneer. The Fishery Board was good enough to conduct the experiments for my Board. This Pioneer has been in operation, and has followed the fishing. It came to the river here in London and was inspected by a number of members of the House of Commons who were interested in the experiment. Mr. Sutherland probably knows more of the results of the experiment for the year 1906 than I do yet, but I believe that the experiment has not been quite the success it might have been, simply because the fishermen at Scotland want something more than auxiliary power. They only want to fish from steam boats, not from the old boats aided with auxiliary power.

21941. Is the development of the steam drifter, as they call it on the east coast of England, very much on the increase in the pursuit of fishing in Scottish waters?—Yes. I don't profess to speak on that subject with, in any way, expert knowledge, but I am told that the fishermen in Scotland do want to have the very best possible tools for the trade.

21942. I presume that the reason the Board gave assistance to the Pioneer experiment was because of their recognition that locomotion by steam or motor power in substitution for sails is becoming a question seriously affecting fishery operations?—That is so. There is a great number of very good boats,

wind-driven boats, and it would be a good thing if some auxiliary power was fitted on to them, but events have gone far ahead of the views of what the Board then thought would be satisfactory.

Feb. 23, 1907.

Mr R. E. MacGregor.

21943. CHAIRMAN.—Tell us a little about the establishment of this fishing village near Stromway?—My Board have power under the Act to establish what are called fishermen's holdings. They become satisfied, early in their official life, that there was a demand in or near Stromway for homes for fishermen, and accordingly agreed to lend to selected fishermen sums not exceeding £120 each—that was to be the maximum loan—to help these men to erect houses on this piece of ground.

21944. Have these houses got a garden attached to each of them as a quarter of an acre plot?

21945. Is that made a condition?—Yes.

21946. Mr. BRYCE.—What kind of rent is charged for those?—They are what is called in Scotland, Scots. It is a perpetual tenure.

21947. Sir JOHN COLVILL.—It is a ground rent?—Yes.

Mr. BRYCE.—A perpetual ground rent, subject to ejection if they don't pay.

21948. CHAIRMAN.—Were they obliged to build on some general plan?—Yes. As a matter of fact the Board did build the houses for them through a contractor instead of giving the £120 to them to build the houses according to their own design.

21949. What did it cost the Board to build them?—In all cases under £120. It may have varied a few shillings, but from £106 to £114 was what each cottage cost.

21950. Mr. BRYCE.—There were four rooms in each cottage?—Yes.

21951. CHAIRMAN.—Supposing the £120 had been given to the men, would they have been able to do it more cheaply or would it have cost them more?—I don't think they could have built them so cheaply.

21952. Not by utilizing their own labour?—I am afraid not. If they were all to build them at the same time there would be such a demand upon the local mason, the local carpenter, and so on, twenty or thirty people wanting them at the same time.

21953. You say at first the Board offered them a loan of £120 each to build the houses themselves?—Yes.

21954. And they would not take it up?—When the offer was originally made only one man came forward, and the matter was dropped for a long time.

21955. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It was not the direct action of the Board at all. They were dealing with the "supervisor," the proprietor, to whom the land belongs?—Yes.

21956. Your Board simply gave loans for house-building?—Yes, and grants for certain equipments. The fishermen wanted them. The proprietor was willing to give them if the Board would do certain things. One was to lend these men money to build the houses.

21957. CHAIRMAN.—Then you offered that and nobody came forward?—Yes; one man came forward, and it was dropped for several years, and then it was revived again.

21958. Then it was only revived by the Board consenting to erect these houses?—That was not quite so. The local people said they were very sorry the thing had failed originally, that they believed that there was some misunderstanding, and that we should give them another chance. The Board said "Very well," and renewed the offer, and a sufficient number of loans did come forward to take the quarter-acre plots; and the houses are now built and the people are in them.

21959. What I want to get at is why the Board departed from their original attitude of lending £120 per man and proceeded to build the houses themselves?—I believe it was because they thought they could build cheaper and better houses wholesale than leaving it to individual men to do retail.

21960. Had it nothing to do with the feeling that unless they did it themselves it would not be done at all?—I don't think so.

21961. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Were they not actuated altogether by the fact that the houses proposed were of peculiar construction, which the fishermen themselves could not build; they are built on a new system?—The particular way of building these houses is probably not a thing these men could do. They are hollow blocked concrete walls; but I take it Lord Dudley's

Feb. 23, 1907.
Mr. R. E.
MacGregor.

question is not so much the kind of house that was put up as whether if the Board did not build these houses the men would have put them up.

21562. The CHAIRMAN.—The men wanted to get down from the landlord in order to have fishing cottages. The landlord said he would only give the men on condition of year advancing a certain amount of money to build houses. You make an offer of £120 and nobody except one man takes it up and the whole scheme falls to the ground. The next we are told of it is that the scheme is revived on the basis that you build the houses yourselves. I want to know was the change of attitude simply for financial reasons, that you thought you could build them more cheaply, or was it because you thought if you did not build them you would never get them built at all?—As a matter of fact the question of the building of the houses did not arise at the same time as the revival of the scheme. It was only after a sufficient number of men came forward that the Board began seriously to consider whether they should build the houses themselves or give the men the money to do it.

21563. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It was the action of our engineer?—Yes. He said it was better to do it whole sale.

21564. CHAIRMAN.—If you were going to do the same in other places and build houses with plots for the fishing population would you suggest leaving it to them, and giving them grants, or doing it yourself?—My own individual opinion would be strongly against building houses for the people.

21565. Tell us why you have come to that conclusion?—I have come to it from the experience in this case and another settlement. The Board built these houses, and personally I think they were very good houses, but a great number of people objected. They had all sorts of objections to them, objections that I don't think they would have taken if the same houses had been built by themselves.

21566. You think although you may get uniformity of appearance by building a village yourself it is better to allow them to have different kinds of houses to suit themselves?—That is my own personal opinion, very strongly indeed.

21567. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would you differentiate between different classes? These were fishermen who were not good hands at building houses, whereas these others from whom you have derived your impression were not fishermen; the people who built the houses themselves, and built them very well?—Yes; the people in Sutherlandshire have really built good cottages themselves.

21568. A fisherman is not a handy man on land?—That is so; but these particular people are only, to a certain extent, fishermen. But I fancy what I say would not amount to more than this—that a man is better pleased with a thing he puts up himself.

21569. CHAIRMAN.—If you were doing this generally you would allow them to put the houses up themselves?—That is my impression.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It was not so much the fishermen as other people coming to look at them who found fault—bodybuilders in the newspapers, who went to look at them.

21570. CHAIRMAN.—That does not apply to the houses that you built on the estates that you purchased: they are pleased with them?—On the estates the Board purchased the people have erected their own houses with money the Board has lent to them. Really some wonderful cottages have been put up.

21571. Are these people whom you established in this village at Stormway the sons of crofters and people living near?—Yes; I think in every case. Necessarily they were natives of Lewis, but they were cottars, and the sons of crofters. Lewis men are very good fishermen. These men were cottars there who were fishermen.

21572. Is there any question of their going away if they had not been established in a village like this?—Yes; from the very island of Lewis, during the year 1906, there has been a strong and constant stream of emigration to Canada.

21573. Many of these people also would have gone away if they were not established in this village?—Quite likely.

21574. How do they succeed in the fishing? Did grouping them together have the effect of enabling them to fish on a better system than they had before?—This place is quite close to Stormway Harbour,

which is the centre of a very large fishing in that part; and I have no doubt in the world it is very convenient for these men to the place where the boats come in, and where they lie up during the winter, more convenient than if the men were living ten or twenty miles away.

21575. Have they, by living close to a great harbour, which is the centre of the fishing trade, been enabled to fish in larger boats than they did before, when they were living scattered up and down the coast?—I don't know that their living there would affect the size of the boat. The idea that the Board had was—it was desirable that these people who fish from this excellent harbour of Stormway should live near the place where they earn their living. The other questions of largeness of boats, etc., are affected by general commercial considerations.

21576. But if men lived ten miles away before this it is obvious that it would have been impossible for them to come into Stormway to go to their boats, so that they could not have kept their boats in Stormway and lived ten miles away themselves?—I expect some of them really did so, and kept their boats in Stormway during the off season in fishing. There are off seasons in the fishing, and they probably lived in one of the townships in the island even though the boat lay in Stormway Harbour.

21577. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But it was bound to affect the fishing on account of the convenience?—Yes.

21578. Lord Dudley's point is this—if they were living in small places, ten or twelve miles away, they could only have small boats, which they could haul up on the beach?—Yes.

21579. When they come in and live near Stormway they could have large boats?—Yes.

21580. I need not ask you whether any of these men have become large boat-owners in consequence of the change—the time is too short?—Undoubtedly the desire of the Board was that the men living there should either be hired hands on, or part owners of, as large boats as possible.

21581. That was one of the representations made to your Board at the time your aid was invited?—Yes. That was their object in establishing this village—that they should be near a good harbour, with all the advantages that a good harbour gives.

21582. CHAIRMAN.—Were you short of land that you could only give them a quarter of an acre; was there any reason why you could not give them more?—Decidedly. They wanted to make these men fishermen. They did not want to create the class that is called crofter fishermen—men who divide their occupation.

21583. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It was an experiment?—Yes.

21584. The only of the kind by your Board?—Yes.

21585. CHAIRMAN.—Is it succeeding?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Yes, I should say so, but we will be better able to tell in a year.

21586. Mr. BRUCE.—How many families are in the village?—Twenty-nine.

21587. How much is the fee duty?—The minimum that is allowed by the Court to an entailed proprietor—24 sh. an acre.

21588. Was the whole thing a quarter of an acre?—In round figures, the whole thing was a quarter of an acre.

21589. That is £1 a year?—Yes, generally speaking; because the land cannot be mathematically divided.

21590. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—The ground rent, or what you call the fee, is £1 a year?—Yes.

21591. Is the crofter responsible for that to the landlord or are you?—The crofter is.

21592. The position is this—that the crofter gets from the landlord this quarter of an acre of land, for which he pays 24 sh. and you lend the crofter the money to build a house, for which he pays you certain interest?—Yes.

21593. Would you give me approximately the amount of interest?—The rate of interest is 2½ per cent.; the annuity is £3 14s. 1d. to repay £300 in 48½ years.

21594. What does that work out at?—In round figures, about 54 for each loan made.

21595. Therefore, the joint payments to be made to you for loan and to the landlord for fee come to 25½?—Yes.

21596. If the crofter fails to pay his interest what happens to you?—We have got a mortgage over the house.

22007. Therefore, you enter into possession if he fails?—Yes.

22008. Suppose he does not pay the ground rent?—The general law in Scotland is if a man fails to pay for two years the owner of the ground can enter into possession.

22009. So you are amply secured?—Yes.

22010. So long as that would be a demand for three houses at that rate?—Yes.

22011. You wish to speak of the Landward Committee of the Parish Council?—Yes.

22012. Are the Parish Councils divided into Landward and Seaward Committees?—In some parishes you have a town like Skerryvore and then the country districts adjoining. The interests of these two urban and rural populations are not always quite identical. Therefore the Parish Council is divided up into two committees—the Landward Committee and the other.

22013. You are anxious to relieve congestion by migration from the Lerwick?—Yes.

22014. You in fact did offer to add the Landward Committee of the Parish Council with a view of seeing whether you could get fifty families from the Lerwick to migrate to the mainland?—Yes.

22015. You found you could not?—We did not, as a matter of fact.

22016. There was a difficulty to migration at the time?—There was. I should qualify that by saying that since then they have indicated they could now supply fifty families, but unfortunately the Board could not entertain the proposal, in view of promised legislation on the point.

22017. But there has been a change of attitude locally?—Yes.

22018. I see it stated in your report that the crofters are not inclined to purchase their holdings, and that they prefer to remain as tenants?—Yes; that has so far been the experience with us.

22019. That is the exact opposite to the condition of things prevailing in Ireland. Now, as to common grazing, am I right in construing the regulation as is common grazing into an operation by those who signed it that the common grazing is not a good system?—I should not like to go that length, but there is no doubt about it that the system of common rights in grazing has been one of the reasons why it has been so difficult to get people to entertain the question of purchase in Scotland than in the case in Ireland, where I understand a man has got an individual holding, and I understand he has got no common right.

Mr. BRYCE.—There is common pasture in Ireland just as there is in Scotland.

22020. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—I did not understand you to mean that there was none, but that the general rule prevailing was that there was a complete holding?—That is what I understood, but in the case of the crofters in Scotland, although, of course, there are exceptions, the general rule is that they have common rights of pasture along with their fellows in a township.

22021. Then the Board was anxious, as I understood, to make purchase as against fencing more attractive, and applied to the Treasury to give Scotland exactly the same advantages that Ireland possesses—that is to say, the period of repayment to be 60 years, and the interest 2½ per cent. per £100 on advances?—Yes.

22022. But what the Treasury has done willingly on a huge scale for Ireland was denied and refused on a small scale for Scotland?—Yes; they said for reasons, which seemed good to them, they did not propose to extend the 2½ per cent. system to Scotland.

22023. But what your Board sought for in what they conceive to be the public interest, for relieving congestion in Scotland, was exactly identical to the system that the Treasury and Parliament have granted to Ireland?—That is so.

22024. You say, with regard to marine works, you found on taking up the business of the Board that works constructed both before and after the passing of the Works Act, 1891, were of very little public benefit?—Yes, unfortunately there were one or two cases.

22025. You say also it is difficult to ascertain in some cases of old piers how or by whom they were erected, and as there was generally no obligation for upkeeping the works were allowed to fall into ruin. Therefore your experience in Scotland appears to have been

identical with the experience, of which we have had evidence, in Ireland?—What is stated there is the fact. There are piers that are a danger now to navigation rather than a help.

22026. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—With regard to your procedure in making piers, roads, etc., you don't do these directly yourselves?—No. The powers of the Board are to assist in the construction of these things.

22027. And in no case do you do any of these works yourselves except on the representation of the statutory bodies?—Yes. The statutory body apply to the Board for a grant, say, to help them to erect a pier at A, or make a road at B. The Board investigate the case, and if they approve of it they say, "Very well; we will give you 50 per cent. or 75 per cent."

22028. 75 per cent. is the general thing?—Yes, on condition that they put in force in the case of a pier the Works Act of 1891, and erect the pier and see that it is fully kept in repair, well managed, and all necessary repairs well attended to as the statute provides.

22029. But the whole responsibility of finishing the work and maintaining it in future is put upon that local authority for the 75 per cent. of the cost?—For the 75 per cent. of the cost. The theory is that these people would have built the pier or made the road themselves if they had the money to do it. They are convinced that the work is a good one, but they don't happen to have sufficient funds to provide the total cost. Accordingly they ask the Board to help them to the extent of 75 per cent. as a free grant.

22030. Suppose there are a few individuals who think that a pier would be an advantage at a certain place, they have first of all to convince their own County Council that that is so?—Yes. They have to go to the County Council and satisfy them that it is a good workable scheme, and satisfy them on a variety of points as to which the County Council require to be satisfied about the provisions of the remaining cost of the pier and other matters of that sort.

22031. Mr. BRYCE.—Is there any danger in Scotland of the fishing class or the crofter class getting into the hands of money lenders?—I have heard whispers that the goshawk man does exist in Scotland, but I have never come across a case of it. I have looked into it, but have been unable to find there was any foundation for it.

22032. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—We have not any name for it?—We have not any name for it.

22033. Mr. BRYCE.—As a rule these people, the crofters and fishermen, are fairly well off and are not deep in debt to the shopkeeper; do they get credit?—They get credit, no doubt; the shopkeepers are good to them in many occasions.

22034. But there is no desire apparently on the part of the shopkeeping class to get these people into their hands with the view of squeezing them?—I have heard whispers that the thing exists, but also after inquiry I have never found any foundation for it. The very fact that there is no local name for it shows pretty plainly that it does not exist.

22035. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—As a matter of fact these people going about with a good deal of money on way or another. They deal in money. Money is more in circulation?—Yes.

22036. Mr. BRYCE.—Speaking generally they pay cash largely?—Yes. No doubt, now and then, there is a little barter. They bring in eggs and get tea and sugar and things like that sometimes.

22037. Would you say that since the operations of the Crofters Act and of the Unincorporated Districts Board begun in Scotland there has been an enormous improvement in the condition of the people?—That is my own strong conviction.

22038. In the island of Skye there has been an immense improvement?—Yes. Since I remember that island there has been a very great improvement indeed in the class of houses the people live in and in their general well being.

22039. How many houses have been built by crofters since the Crofters Act was passed?—That is a very difficult question to answer.

Mr. BRYCE.—I have seen it stated that over a thousand houses have been built.

22040. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In Skye alone?—That may be so. I don't know. But I can say this from my own knowledge of Skye that the class of houses there now is not to be compared with the old houses that I can remember.

Feb. 24, 1907.

Mr. R. R. MacGregor.

Feb. 23, 1906.
Mr. H. R.
Macdonald

22031. Mr. BRYCE.—The cattle are never in the same room with the people now.—Speaking of Skye I should say not. I don't know of any case in Skye where they are. In Skye the people really do live in very comfortable houses indeed. I know of one house there that cost over \$1,000 to build, but of course that is quite an exceptional case.

22032. That was not built on loan from the Congested Districts Board?—It simply meant that the man had three or four sons who had gone to South Africa, and made money, wished that their father's declining days should be passed in comfort; but there are lots of houses that have cost £200, £300, and £400. That is quite common.

22033. If they came to you for a loan you would not advance them as much as that?—No.

22034. You would never go beyond your £120?—The Board want to lend as little money as possible. They don't want to break the back of the people.

22035. You might lend a man £120, and he might spend another £120 of his own if he liked?—Quite so.

22036. That would only add to your security?—Yes. I know of one case where the man spent a great deal more than the loan from the Board. He would have built a house with his own money, but he wanted a better one.

22037. Mr. SUMMERLAND.—In Sherinish, in Skye, is not it the case that the Board when settling people advance only £30 per house?—That was in North Uist, and they build very good houses.

22038. Mr. BRYCE.—They furnish most of the money themselves?—Yes, either in cash or labour.

22039. There are some very bad spots still in South Uist, Barra, and so on, where the troubles have been laid?—Yes. There are places still remaining congested and partly elsewhere in the islands, where the conditions as to housing are not so good as they are in North Uist or Skye; there are districts in which there are lots of room for improvement still.

22040. The more difficulty down there is the actual want of land. We heard a great deal about a raid where they say people landed. There was an actual want of a place to live on?—The only place where there is less land than could be divisible among the population is the Island of Lewis.

22041. That raid was down further south?—That is a very vexed question, but the Board are at the present moment helping to settle people on four farms there, and it has been contended that that in itself is sufficient remedy for congestion in South Uist. Evidence will have to show whether that is the case or not.

22042. In Ireland the Congested Districts Board have found that there was a difficulty in effecting amalgamation operations on account of the hostility of the people surrounding the estate which it was proposed to distribute among tenants coming from a distance?—Yes.

22043. Have you had any instance in Scotland in your operations of any such hostility?—None, in the cases where amalgamation has taken place simply for the reason that my Board migrated those people from various parts of Scotland to land with nobody on it, and therefore there was nobody to oppose them.

22044. It is a similar thing in Ireland. It is proposed to migrate them to unencumbered lands, but the people living actually round the alienated land say—"No; we want that land. If anybody is going to have that land you must not put in people from another county."—The same thing exists. I can easily imagine cases.

22045. Mr. SUMMERLAND.—Have you in your experience ever been remonstrated with by persons? In all these cases of migration can you recollect an instance?—There was an instance where it got abroad that the Board were to bring people from other districts, and settle them in Kilmuir.

22046. That was a perfectly hypothetical case that was put. The thing was not on the tapis at all?—Yes. They very strongly objected to any outsiders coming in on the land that they considered they had a first claim to.

22047. But there was no intention on the part of the Board to put anybody in?—No.

22048. There was no foundation in the case?—It got about that such a thing was to be done, and they remonstrated against it.

22049. Mr. BRYCE.—The mere fact that the people did object to the proposal, even though hypothetical, seems to me to be in point?—They say they have the first claim.

22050. That is precisely what has happened in Ireland, only there it has taken a much more vigorous form; but still you have never practically in your operations brought people from a distance on to your estates?—No; except the Strathnaver district, where they came from a long distance.

22051. The people found about the Skye estate did not object?—There are not very many people to object; but still they did not.

22052. Mr. SUMMERLAND.—At the present moment are you not conducting negotiations for taking people from the Island of Kintyre on to South Uist?—Yes.

22053. You have heard no objections?—No objections.

22054. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—In these congested districts are there any migratory labourers?—Yes. There is a large class of fishermen who begin in the early part of the year and go round by Gairn Bay.

22055. I don't mean as regards fishing, but as regards manufactures and agriculture?—Yes. Lots of men go away as yachsmen, or servants, or go to Glasgow in the winter to work in the gas works.

22056. Is that regarded by your Board as a great evil?—No; a man lives by his labour and goes where there is labour.

22057. Is it not in the eyes of public opinion in the districts or in Scotland regarded as a great social evil?—No.

22058. You spoke about the growing development of a tendency to emigrate to Canada?—I mentioned that during this last year large numbers of men from Lewis did emigrate to Canada.

22059. Only last year?—1905 was specially mentioned. I don't pretend to know much of the details, but the Chairman of the District Committee told me that he had himself been concerned in the emigration of a large number of these men.

22060. Mr. BRYCE.—Is not it the case that the tendency has been general over the North of Scotland this year; a great many have gone from the islands?—Yes.

22061. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Is it within the power of your Board and contemplated by your Act to consider, and have your Board considered, the advantage of emigration as distinguished from migration as a method for relieving congestion?—They are brought up dead short by the words of the Act, which says: "To migrate people from congested districts to other districts of Scotland." In the very early days of the Board I got a great number of requests from people saying: "Could your Board help me by a small grant to go to Canada, or go to the United States?" as the case might be, and the answer always was that the Board had no power to do anything more than migrate to other districts in Scotland.

22062. The power of the Board is limited to that?—Yes.

22063. But you have had applications?—Yes.

22064. Are those applications from the cottar class?—Cottars and crofters, one or other.

22065. Are these cases of individual men or women wishing to go to Canada, or families?—I should say we have had cases of both.

22066. Would you, from your own personal knowledge of the conditions prevailing in Scotland, think it desirable to extend the powers of your Act so that in cases where families wished to emigrate to Canada you would be able to assist them?—Without wishing to commit myself to an opinion on the general subject to which you refer I should say that the more power the Board has the better, because they could exercise their discretion on each case as it arose.

22067. Do you think if they had more power that there would be, in those districts, cottar families to avail themselves of it?—I think so.

22068. CHAIRMAN.—Would it be feasible to exercise it? I don't know what the feeling in the congested areas in Scotland is, but if the Congested Districts Board were to go into the Lewis to induce a number of families to emigrate to Canada or somewhere else with the aid of their funds, do you think that that would be an action that would be supported by public opinion in your district?—No doubt your knowledge knows that the idea is that the proper course for the Government to take in a case of that sort is

to re-people the country. I have noticed a little book called "The Colonisation of Scotland," which is a statement of the operations of my Board. That is the general idea, that that is the sphere in which they should exercise their energies.

22068. Would not it be held that State-aided emigration is the last resource?—Yes.

22069. And every other attempt ought to be made to employ or settle the people in Scotland before recourse was had to the extreme action of departing them to other countries?—Yes; I have no doubt in the world that that is the reason why the very specific words were put into the Act "To other districts in Scotland." It always seemed to me that that was clearly put in to exclude the idea of emigration as contrasted with migration.

22070. Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—Let me put my point in another form. Assume that the Board had the power to give aid to those who voluntarily wished to go with their families to Canada, do you think there would be public hostility to the Board assisting any family that wished to go?—That is why I said that power might be reserved. I can easily imagine a case, I do know one case where it would have been a distinct advantage to everybody concerned that a man who wanted to go should have been assisted. That was an individual.

22071. I am speaking of families?—He was anxious to go, and it would have relieved local difficulties that he should go; and in a case of that sort I should think that no reasonable man would object to anybody helping them. But undoubtedly what Lord Dudley says represents the state of public feeling.

22072. Mr. BAYNE.—It is the fact that the Deer Forest Commission in 1862 reported that there was an immense quantity of land in Scotland which would be available, which had been turned into deer forests or sheep farms for the settlement of a very large number of persons in the scheduled districts?—Yes.

22073. So long as that land is unoccupied the local feeling in Scotland is that that land should be acquired and distributed?—That is the point that I understood the Chairman to refer to.

22074. Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—Am I right in saying that the larger portion of your operations has been carried on with the concurrence of, and by co-operation with, the landlord without disturbing the relations between landlord and tenant at all?

Mr. SCOTCHLAND.—It is by far the largest.—It depends entirely on what you are going to do with Kildonan.

22075. Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—Has it led to any extreme difficulty?—No difficulty. For instance, Sir Arthur Oul is the landlord now, and I am happy to say that there has been co-operation between himself and my Board.

22076. Then the Congested Districts Board of Scotland have found it perfectly practicable to carry out the beneficent work of relieving congestion without embarking on any great purchase scheme?—Yes.

22077. Mr. BAYNE.—Is it a matter of your knowledge that there has been a continually increasing number of the Celtic population of the West of Scotland who are embarking in fishing. Forty or fifty years ago it used to be said that the people of western Scotland, in the islands, the Gaelic people of the West of Scotland, had no aptitude for fishing. Now, I understand from you that an immense fishing is carried on off the west coast of Scotland by the people of the Celtic race?—Yes; they begin early in May, in Castle Bay, in Barra.

22078. This fishing is conducted not only by boats from the East of Scotland, but largely by boats owned and manned by the Gaelic population of the islands themselves?—Yes, speaking as an ordinary observer, that is so. One sees boats there belonging to people in South Uist and elsewhere.

22079. Has the operation of fishing developed in the course of years naturally among the local population of the West of Scotland?—That is my observation.

22080. My reason for asking the question is because it has been said that the people on the west coast of Ireland who are, speaking generally, of the same race as the people in the West of Scotland, have no aptitude for fishing, and the industry there is in a very much more backward condition than it is on the west coast of Scotland, and I only wanted to get it on the record from you that so far as your observation goes there is no natural inaptitude on the part of the population on the west coast of Scotland for fishing?—I think that, given equal opportunities, they are as fit to do anything as well as other people.

Mr. BAYNE.—Thank you for your evidence, which has been extremely interesting.

The Commission adjourned.

Feb. 22 1907

Mr. R. R. MacGregor.

APPENDICES.

INDEX TO APPENDICES.

	Page
Appendix I. —Documents put in by the Rev. W. S. GIBBS.	
A. Marine Works Constructed by the Congested Districts Board, ...	158
Map showing locality and expenditure on works connected with Fisheries, ...	To face 158
B. Memorandum of certain points relating to the history and present needs of Irish Fisheries, ...	161
C. Memorandum on condition of Fisheries, ...	170
Appendix II. —Document put in by Mr. DUFFIN.	
Notes of Evidence, ...	172
Appendix III. —Documents put in by Mr. WALKER.	
A. Notes on Evidence, ...	176
B. Statement showing Rates struck in Congested Districts, ...	178
C. Table taken from the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation, ...	178
Appendix IV. —Documents put in by Professor J. B. CAMPBELL.	
A. Memorandum on Agricultural Work of Department, ...	179
B. Leaflet (No. 36) on the Revival of Tillage in Ireland, ...	220
Appendix V. —Documents put in by Mr. FLETCHER.	
A. List of Industrial and Domestic Economy Classes in Congested Districts prior to 1st August, 1903, ...	224
B. Return showing Places and Dates on which such Classes have been established, ...	224
C. List of Manual Instruction Classes conducted in Congested Districts, ...	225
D. Technical Classes for Girls, ...	226
E. Rural Economy—Suggested Outline Syllabus, ...	227
F. Memorandum on Rural Industries and Training for Home Life, ...	227

Appendix VI.—Documents put in by Mr. E. A. ANDERSON.

Page APPENDICES.

A. Co-operative Grazing, ...	232
B. Killybegs Co-operative Agricultural Society, ...	233
C. Report on Co-operative Grazing Scheme on Mr. Percy Mangan's Estate in Co. Roscommon, ...	233
D. Case on behalf of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Limited, for Counsel to Advise re Acquisition of Grazing Farms, ...	234
E. Draft of Bill promoted by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and submitted to the Right Hon. Gerald Balfour, then Chief Secretary, ...	235

Appendix VII.—Documents put in by Mr. R. McGEEHAN.

A. Statement of the Salaries of the Staff of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland for 1906-07, ...	237
B. Statement of Particulars of Small Holdings for Sale in Strathnaver, ...	237

APPENDIX I.

Documents put in by the Rev. W. S. GREEN in connection with the Evidence given by him before the Commission.

A.—MARINE WORKS CONSTRUCTED BY THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD,
COUNTY DONEGAL.

No.	Electoral Division.	Name of Work.	Description of Work.	Cost to 31st December, 1900.	In whose control.	Observations.
1	Colington, ..	Portlough, ..	Pier and breakwater, &c.	500	Board.	
2	Donagh, ..	Downings, ..	Pier, ..	410	Board of Works, ..	Contribution under Marine Works Act.
3	Donagh, ..	Portlough, ..	Pier, ..	212	County Council.	
			Light, ..	72	Board.	
4	Do, ..	Donagh, ..	Quarry channel, ..	75	—	
5	Do, ..	do, ..	Extension of pier, and removal of wreck, ..	500	County Council.	
6	Do, ..	Maghera, ..	Loading place and repairs	250	Board.	
7	Maghera, ..	Tory Island, ..	Loading place, ..	1,500	Board.	
8	Maghera, ..	Maghera, ..	Pier and repairs, ..	125	Board.	
9	Do, ..	Gala Island, ..	Loading place, ..	205	Board.	
10	Antrim, ..	Gortanna, ..	Loading place and sea wall, ..	305	Board.	
11	Do, ..	do, ..	Pier, ..	200	Board of Works, ..	Contribution under Marine Works Act.
12	Do, ..	Overy Island, ..	Loading place, ..	45	Board.	
13	Bahad, ..	Han Carr, ..	Constructing sea wall, ..	50	Board.	
14	Do, ..	Castletown, ..	Quay, ..	8	Board, ..	Work not yet commenced.
15	Do, ..	Castletown, ..	Slip, ..	100	Board.	
16	Do, ..	Polansky, ..	Improving loading place, ..	40	—	
17	Do, ..	Ramagh, ..	Pier improvement, ..	150	County Council, ..	Contribution
18	Do, ..	Inchro, ..	Loading place, ..	30	Board.	
19	Do, ..	Bahad, ..	Loading stage, ..	10	Board.	
20	Do, ..	Bahad, ..	Pier extension and improvement, ..	310	County Council.	
21	Do, ..	Wynn Point, ..	Light, ..	200	Board.	
22	Do, ..	Falmer, ..	Slip, ..	170	Board.	
23	Do, ..	Falmer, ..	Improving loading place, ..	80	—	
24	Do, ..	Barley, ..	Slip and lights, ..	207	Board.	
25	Do, ..	Whitely, ..	Slip, ..	270	Board.	
26	Do, ..	Porten, ..	Pier, ..	200	—	Contribution under Marine Works Act.
27	Do, ..	Yaffey Bank (large), ..	Loading place, ..	175	County Council, ..	Contribution.
28	Do, ..	Longton, ..	Removal of rocks; slip and basin, ..	100	Board.	
29	Do, ..	Stewartstown, ..	Loading place, ..	100	Board.	
30	Do, ..	Traill, ..	Clothing berths, ..	600	County Council.	
31	Do, ..	Traill Lights, ..	Errecting two lanterns, ..	10	Board.	
32	Do, ..	Chalmers, ..	Pier, ..	1,200	Board of Works.	
33	Do, ..	do, ..	do, ..	100	Board of Works, ..	Contribution under Marine Works Act.
34	Do, ..	Killybeg, ..	do, ..	1,400	Harbour Commissioners.	Contribution to Board of Works and Harbour Commissioners.
35	Do, ..	Port Lough, ..	Slip, breakwater, repairs to stone wall, ..	410	Board.	
				£15,975		

COUNTY SLEIGO.

1	Offaly North, ..	Malinbeg, ..	Improvements and repairs to pier, ..	140	Rev. E. Ashby.	
2	Offaly South, ..	Malinbeg, ..	Slip, ..	140	Board.	
3	Donagh West, ..	Malinbeg, ..	Removal of rocks, ..	140	—	Not yet authorized.
4	Do, ..	Malinbeg, ..	Pier and approach, ..	100	—	Not yet authorized.
				£735	—	Including slat.

APPENDIX I.
COUNTY MAYO.

159

APPENDIX I.

No.	Electoral Division.	Name of Work.	Description of Work.	Cost to 31st December, 1906.	In whom vested.	Observations.
				2		
1	Maunabo,	Porturick,	Pier and repairs, &c.,	1,463	Board.	
2	Keshiduff,	Porturick,	Slip and approach road,	1,535	Board.	
3	Meleahda,	Carshill,	Repairs to slip,	4	—	
4	Keshiduff,	Blanco,	Landing place,	101	Board.	
5	Keshiduff,	Arret,	Slip and repairs,	391	Board.	
6	Keshiduff,	Ballyglen,	Landing place,	114	Board.	In progress.
7	Do.,	Mungroona,	Slip and repairs,	602	Board.	
8	Ringinastown Sch.,	Enishina,	Landing place approach,	35	Board.	
9	Arshill,	Valley,	Pier repairs,	8	—	
10	Strevemore,	Dagert,	Pier,	1,612	Board.	
11	Arshill,	Binnacurry,	Pier,	43	County Council.	
12	Strevemore,	Doogh,	Boatlip,	519	Board.	In progress.
13	Do.,	Kesh Harbour,*	Reconstruction of pier,	1,440	County Council.	
14	Doogh,	Campart,	Slip and repairs,	1,080	Board.	
15	Corran (Arshill),	Tonnage,	Marling channel, &c.,	1,061	Board.	
16	Doogh,	Killevagh,	Repairs to slip,	50	—	
17	Do.,	Derry's Point,	Pier extension and lights,	93	Board.	
18	Corran (Arshill),	—	Removal of rocks,	153	—	
19	Carshillagh,	Kilbary,	Beacon,	420	Board.	
				111,947		

* Recently placed in charge of County Council by Board of Works.

COUNTY GALWAY.

1	Inishbofin,	Leigha (L) on Bally,	Light,	216	Board.	
2	Do.,	Inishbofin,	Landing place,	57	do.	
3	Do.,	Inishbofin,	do.,	145	County Council.	
4	Cliggan,	Cliggan Head,	Light,	146	Board.	
5	Slerna,	Rossaduff,	Pier and repairs,	925	do.	
6	Cliggan,	Cliggan,	Pier improvements,	682	County Council.	1290 of this contribution made by Marine Works Act.
7	Slerna,	Asphraghmore,	Landing place,	365	Board.	
8	Clifden,	Clifden,	Beacon and buoy,	268	do.	
9	Doonbeg,	Doonbeg,	Landing place,	568	do.	
10	Doonbeg,	Doonbeg,	Pier improvements,	146	County Council.	Contribution
11	Rossaduff,	Rossaduff,	Removal of rocks,	15	do.	
12	Rossaduff,	Rossaduff,	Pier,	256	—	Contribution under Marine Works Act.
13	Keshbeg,	Derr Island,	Light,	416	Board.	
14	Do.,	Moore Harbour,	Pier and approach road,	2,226	do.	
15	Slerna,	Slerna,	Pier improvements,	82	County Council.	
16	Do.,	Fasnah,	Pier,	135	Board.	
17	Corranah,	Kilgool,	Improvements to channel,	26	—	
18	Corranah,	Derrybeg,	Pier and beacon,	296	Board.	
19	Doonbeg,	Kilbarragh,	Repairs to pier and coast-guard,	84	County Council.	
20	Do.,	Do.,	New pier,	245	Board.	
21	Do.,	Slerna,	Extension and improvements to pier,	1,162	County Council.	
22	Do.,	do.,	Light,	248	—	Contribution under Marine Works Act.
23	Do.,	do.,	Light,	352	Board.	
24	Do.,	Doonbeg,*	Boatlip,	615	County Council.	
25	Do.,	South Arm Head,	Clearing stream, &c.,	227	—	
26	Do.,	Trillick,	Breakwater,	434	Board.	
27	Carshillagh,	Derrybeg,	Landing place,	86	do.	
28	Do.,	Maun Quay,	—	—	—	
29	Do.,	Camacora Pier,	Lough Corrib Pier,	228	Board.	
30	Doonbeg,	Doonbeg Quay,	—	—	—	
				212,518		

* This work was recently reconstructed and taken over by the County Council.

* Kilbarragh beacons—see Maps.

X 3

COUNTY KERRY.

No.	Electoral Division.	Name of Work.	Description of Work.	Cost by Stat. Decree, 1845.	In whom vested.	Observations.
1	Killybeg, ..	Monaghan, ..	Pier, ..	1,300	Board.	
2	Castlegregory, ..	Scraggan, ..	Pier and landing, ..	1,410	do.	
3	Trillick, ..	Brandon Pier, ..	Light, ..	48	do.	
4	Kilgarra, ..	Brandon Creek, ..	Pier, &c., ..	1,875	do.	
5	Do., ..	Glinsk, ..	Quay, ..	95	do.	
6	Dunquin, ..	Dunquin, ..	Pier, ..	500	do.	
7	Do., ..	Black, ..	Pier, &c., ..	304	do.	
8	Kilgarra, ..	Kilgarra, ..	Boat slip, ..	302	do.	
9 & 10	Do., ..	Tullagh and Glenties, ..	Small quays and repairs, ..	440	do.	
10	Do., ..	Garran, ..	Boat slip, ..	80	do., ..	100 contribution.
12	Glinsk, ..	Cowalla, ..	Landing place and road, ..	87	do.	
13	Do., ..	Dunobeg, ..	Landing place, ..	12	—	
14	Kilgarra, ..	Boat, ..	Boat slip, ..	1,815	Feord.	
15	Castlegregory, ..	Carman, ..	Pier, &c., ..	4,500	do.	
16	Do., ..	Concoran Island, ..	Improvements, ..	74	—	
17	Valentia, ..	Trunglasson, ..	Breakwater, ship, ..	1,200	Board.	
18	Do., ..	Concoran Island, ..	Removal of rocks, ..	250	—	
19	St. Flannan, ..	Old Boat Cove, ..	Pier, &c., ..	1,510	Board.	Work suspended
20	Ballydoole, ..	Alghemore, ..	Boat slip and removal of rock, ..	100	do.	
21	Berrymore, ..	Kilgarra and Lohar, ..	Removing rocks, ..	15	—	
22	Do., ..	Derrymore, ..	Boat slip and repairs, ..	427	Board.	
23	Caherisland, ..	Kilgarra, ..	Pier, ..	401	do.	
24	Do., ..	West Cove, ..	Quay, repairs, &c., ..	444	do.	
25	Do., ..	Do., ..	Quay, pier, &c., ..	1,500	do.	
26	Ballydoole, ..	Tullagh, ..	Landing place, ..	4	do.	
27	Arles, ..	Leahy Harbour, ..	—	300	County Council, ..	Contribution.
28	Tulla, ..	Tulla, ..	Quay, ..	500	do., ..	do.
29	Do., ..	Derrymore, ..	Breakwater, ..	15	do., ..	do.
				124,195		

COUNTY CORK.

1	Kilgarra, ..	Ards, ..	Boat slip and sea wall, ..	170	Board.	
2	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Boat slip, ..	120	County Council, ..	Contribution.
3	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Ship, ..	110	do., ..	In progress.
4	Do., ..	Ards, ..	do., ..	50	—	do.
5	Do., ..	Ards, ..	do., ..	10	Board, ..	do.
6	Do., ..	Ards, ..	do., ..	100	County Council, ..	Contribution.
7	Do., ..	Ards, ..	do., ..	700	Board.	
8	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Ship, ..	470	do.	
9	Kilgarra, ..	Ards, ..	Ship and wall, ..	610	County Council, ..	
10	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Landing place, ..	87	do., ..	Contribution.
11	Kilgarra, ..	Ards, ..	Pier extension, ..	984	do., ..	do.
12	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Pier and approach, ..	1,100	Board.	
13	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Pier, ..	1,220	County Council, ..	In progress.
14	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Boat slip, &c., ..	400	Board.	
15	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Quay and road, ..	300	do.	
16	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Rebuilding quay, ..	140	County Council, ..	
17	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Landing place, ..	20	Board.	
18	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Ship and repairs, ..	120	do.	
19	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Boat slip, ..	110	do.	
20	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Boat slip and improvements, ..	487	do.	
21	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Pier, ..	1,100	do.	
22	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Pier extension, ..	20	County Council, ..	Contribution.
23	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Ship and approach, ..	300	do.	
24	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Boat slip, &c., ..	104	Board.	
25	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Ship and approach, ..	800	do.	
26	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Pier extension, ..	800	County Council, ..	Contribution.
27	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Landing place, ..	22	do., ..	do.
28	Do., ..	Ards, ..	Pier, ..	100	do., ..	do.
29	Do., ..	Ards, ..	do., ..	100	Board of Works, ..	Contribution under Marine Works Act.
30	Do., ..	Ards, ..	do., ..	100	County Council, ..	Contribution.
				125,400		

II.—MEMORANDUM OF CERTAIN POINTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY AND PRESENT NEEDS OF IRISH SEA FISHERIES.

At the sitting of the Royal Commission on Congestion in Dublin on October 5th I gave some evidence on the history of the Irish Fisheries. (See from Questions 4307 to 4323).

I was then asked to prepare a memorandum showing what was the condition of the Fisheries during four periods, viz. :—(a) from 1775 to 1800, (b) from 1800 to 1837, (c) from 1837 to 1870, (d) from 1870 to present time.

I was to state what were the characteristics of each period; what public works were projected or finished to assist the fisheries in each; what has been the effect of these public works; how far any of them are still effective; and then what remains to be done!

Owing to the brief space of time available and the pressing nature of other duties I have been unable to do more than to bring together the following notes.

POPULATION.

The relation between population and fisheries has been so important in Ireland that I think it well to state at the beginning of my notes on the subject of fisheries that the population of Ireland, which in 1674 had been estimated by Sir William Petty at 1,100,000, living in 205,000 houses, had risen in 1793 to 4,688,223, living in 701,162 houses. In 1841 the population was 8,199,833, living in 1,328,839 houses, and in 1901 the population was 4,445,430, living in 858,138 houses. The decline of 470,681 houses would chiefly be represented by the cabins of the poor who died or emigrated in the Famine times. In the more populous portions of the maritime fringe of the West of Ireland the population is now as great as it ever was.

STATE OF THE FISHERIES. PERIOD A (FROM 1775 TO 1800).

The following Note on the Irish Herring Fishery, from "A View of the Natural and Commercial Circumstances of Ireland," by Thomas Newnham, 1809, will indicate the condition of the fisheries at the end of the 18th century. (Further particulars will be found later on in this Memorandum.)

"In the year 1778 there were 383 vessels on the bounty. They caught 72,992 half barrels of herrings, besides a large quantity of hake, ling, and cod. In 1779 there were 410 vessels and 156,757 half barrels of herrings were cured. In 1780 there were in Lough Swilly 130 bounty vessels. They expended in the cure of fish 1,708 tons of salt on 51,240 meass of herrings, while Liverpool and Isle of Man red herring houses bought 38,000 meass for £2,125 (ten pence per hundred). In 1781 the bounty vessels in Lough Swilly were 147; 57,430 barrels were cured. In the same year 117 vessels from Liverpool and the Isle of Man came there to purchase herrings, and purchased 49,950 meass for £12,487 10s.

"From the 14th of December, 1782, to the 14th of February, 1783, there were caught near the Rosses, off the coast of Donegal, 33,634,000 herrings, which were sold on the spot at five shillings per thousand. Mr. Boice in his report to the Committee on the Irish Fisheries declared that as many herrings might have been caught off the Rosses in 1782 as would have loaded all the ships in England.

"In the year 1783 there were (fishing) in Lough Swilly 1,000 boats, with four oars and a skipper in each. The red herring cure paid in one year £47,000. "In 1784 the herrings came upon the North-West coast about the last week in June, and continued till about the last week in September. The demand was so small that incredible numbers were thrown away. On the night of the 15th of January, 1785, the fishery off the Rosses was so great that 450 boats were loaded before the morning."

"Since that year the herring fishery of Ireland has greatly declined. These fish, however, still frequent its numerous harbours and rivers in sufficient abundance to supply the demands of the people in the adjacent districts and to furnish a small supply for foreign markets, and their return to their former shoals may be rationally expected. In fact, they reappeared, and were taken in great abundance last winter off the western coast. The sprats still arrive in prodigious shoals. The writer has seen immense quantities of oil obtained from them at Kinsale, and their remains employed in manuring land."

PERIOD "B" (FROM 1800 TO 1837).

Speaking generally, the Fisheries between 1800 and 1819 were in a declining state. The following quotation from Wakefield's "Statistical Account of Ireland," published in 1813, will show the state of the herring fishing in the West:—

"In Sligo, and on the whole of the N.W. coast, the herring fishery was of great importance till the years 1783 or 1784, but after that time it failed entirely. A very few herrings are still (1812) caught during the summer season, but the quantity is so small as scarcely to be worth notice." (Wakefield, quoting from M'Parlan's "Survey of Sligo.")

"About fifty fishing boats ply about Killybegs and are sometimes tolerably successful, but under an idea of the herrings having deserted the coast, the fishing in the neighbourhood of Newport and Westport has been totally neglected."

On the South of Ireland the Royal Dublin Society attempted, with the assistance of Mr. Frazer, to develop a large fishery for cod, ling, &c., on the Nymph Bank, and a Bill was brought into Parliament for the incorporation of the Company. These interested in the English fisheries became alarmed. Petitions against the Bill came in from Harwich, Gravesend and other places, with the result, in 1834, that the Bill was thrown out on the second reading.

From 1807 to 1816 there was a steady decline in herrings exported, though the tonnage bounties paid pointed to no decline in the fishing fleet.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF IRISH FISHERIES, 1819-1850.

APPENDIX A.

In 1819 an Act was passed providing for the establishment of a Fisheries authority and a bounty system on the coasts of Ireland.

A Board was created, consisting of twenty unpaid Commissioners, with a secretary, three clerks, and twenty-four inspectors.

The functions of this Board were to administer the bounty fund, to improve and construct fishing harbours, and to give loans to fishermen for the purchase of boats and gear.

The principal bounties were:—£2 10s. per ton on vessels over 16 and under 60 tons burden; £3 per ton of whale-oil; 3s. a barrel on herrings, pilchards, and mackerel cured according to the regulations of the Board (this was not paid to vessels earning the tonnage bounty); and 6s. per cwt. on dried cod, ling, hake, haddock, "glansen," and conger. "Under the operation of this system a great increase in the activity of the trade was experienced, much capital was drawn to it, and large sums were circulated among fishermen, curers, &c."

The catches of fish from 1819 to 1830 show important increases. In 1819 the export of dried fish was 40 tons, and this rose to 3,019 tons in 1830. Herrings in 1819 amounted to 1,193 barrels, rising to 16,856 in 1830. Of the fishing vessels registered in the latter year there were:—

218 decked vessels of an average tonnage of 28,	
769 half-decked " " "	12,
3,483 open sailing boats, and " "	
9,928 rowing boats;	

A statistical return often quoted by writers on this subject, to show the success of the bounties, gives the number of fishing vessels on the Irish coast in 1819 as 97 and in 1830 as 4,889. This is quite inaccurate, as other returns show that there were all round the coast a large number of hookers and wherries in and before 1819. The meaning of the figure evidently is that in that first year only 57 vessels qualified for the new bounties.

In 1830 and 1831 the potato failures and cholera caused some stagnation in the fisheries. In 1833 the Abolition of Slavery brought to an end the export to the West Indies of Irish herrings. A general decline in the supply of fish and of fishing set in, and in 1836 a Commission was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant to "inquire into the state of the Irish Fisheries, the laws affecting, and the means and expediency of improving them." In 1836 they produced a most valuable and interesting Report.

In summing up their recommendations they remark, "The progress of a gradual improvement may indeed be assisted and hastened by certain measures, in which the Government might co-operate, but a real and permanent prosperity can only be effected by the hearty endeavour of individuals and bodies, locally interested." Their chief recommendations lay in the direction of administrative reform, and the building of piers and improvement of fishery harbours.

The Bill which was brought into Parliament to give effect to their recommendations was, owing to Scotch opposition, withdrawn in July, 1838.

PERIOD C (FROM 1838 TO 1870).

The policy now adopted towards the Irish Fisheries was one of non-interference, and it lasted till after the Famine times.

Prior to the Famine of 1846-47 there was a large trade in fish from the coast into all parts of Ireland. The Famine not only pressed on the fishermen directly, but indirectly it ruined this market, and boats and gear were sold or pawned to purchase meal for their families.

In 1845 there were 19,863 vessels and 93,073 men engaged in the fisheries. In 1848 (the year after the famine) they had fallen to 15,532 vessels and 79,011 men. Emigration did the rest, and in 1865 the figures were down to 8,800 vessels and 40,845 men. (They are 6,150 vessels and 24,288 men at the present time).

The Commissioners of the Board of Works, responsible for the Irish Fisheries in 1847, report:—"No branch of the industrial resources of Ireland suffered more severely, in the first instance, from the famine and distress of the years 1846-1847, than the fisheries, both deep sea and inland. It is the fact that, in the autumn of 1846, when the impending famine was certain, and when deaths from starvation had already occurred, supplies of fish, the most abundant which had been known for years, existed on many parts of the coast, and that on parts of the southern and western coasts, large quantities of fish were allowed to rot on the shore, if not spread on the adjacent fields for manure."

The full effect on agriculture of the Ropal of the Corn Law, which took place in 1846, was not thoroughly felt for ten years or more. A good deal of corn continued to be grown, and, in the Office, the great period of emigration, the Fishery Commissioners frequently report how the fisheries were not only directly affected by the emigration, but indirectly by the fishermen going inland to take advantage of the improved demand for agricultural labour.

They say there was no lack of fishing vessels, but there was of crews to man them, and many boats on the south coast were left idle in the harbours.

A new era dawned, however, when the Maxxmen found the Spring mackerel off Kinsale in 1862. The development of this great fishery and of the Autumn mackerel fishery, which began in 1867, I have dealt with fully in my evidence.

For fifteen years after 1870 the fisheries of the South and East coasts were in a flourishing condition owing to good mackerel fishing in the south and of herrings about Horth and Ardglass, but it was a period of almost complete stagnation on the West coast.

In 1869 Colonel Fraser, M.P., as a member of the Pies and Roads Commission, presented his most interesting Report to Government on works carried out by him in the Congested Districts. On page 6 he states "I have kept the subject (of fishing) before my mind perpetually while living in these districts, and the net result of all inquiries and observations leaves me hopeless of much future assistance from that source as an industry by itself, in the districts in question. The vagaries of fish migration will, it is hoped, bring about a better future, but from whatever cause, 1868 seemed to have been the worst year for fish in these parts that has been known for a long time."

APPENDIX I.

TABLE showing Piers, Ships, and Harbour Works, constructed or improved in the Congested Districts, between 1800 and 1892, which have proved to be of some use to the Fisheries, with approximate dates of the work marked *—continued.

The works which have proved of much use to the Fisheries since 1892 are indicated by the letter M.

Name of Work.	Prior to 1820.	1820.	1830.	1840.	1850.	1860.	H.A.	of Much Use to the Fisheries.	Observations.
Tramore, ...	x	x					x	M	Used while spring and summer seasons; fish-ery was worked by Congested District Board at Tramore.
Do., ...									
Do., ...									
Do., ...									
Do., ...									
Do., ...	x			x	x			M	Used by a few small trawlers.
Do., ...									
Do., ...		x					x		Used for general trade.
Do., ...			x					M	Used by row-boats.
Do., ...				x				M	Of use since Congested District Board opened fishing station there.
Do., ...									
Do., ...									
Do., ...									
Do., ...	x							M	Used by row-boats only.
Do., ...									
Do., ...		x							Recently opened under Marine Works Act.
Do., ...								M	Great centre for herring fishery.
Do., ...									Used by row-boats and by fishing steamers.
Do., ...									
Do., ...	x	x						M	Terminals of railway.

PROPOSED WORKS, OF IMPORTANCE TO THE FISHERIES, DEMANDING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

In a memorandum which I handed in at my first examination before this Commission, I stated that while the Board was able to construct small works of great utility to the fisheries, there are places where a larger average expenditure is desirable, but the Board has generally found that such works must be left to the chances of special Government grants.

Speaking generally, the costly works are needed only—

- Where special transit facilities exist; or
- Where the expenditure can create better transit facilities; or
- Where the fishing is so good that fleets of fishing craft may be expected to congregate, and where facilities for transit will consequently be provided as a commercial enterprise.

I propose, now, to consider in this order the larger works, and some of the smaller ones, which, if funds were available, it would be desirable to undertake.

Gortnacree Road.

A new and excellent harbour has been constructed at Gortnacree, on the north coast of Donegal, within three miles of the Burton Port Railway. The road between it and the railway is as bad as any that can be found in the country, and should be entirely altered in order that full advantage may be secured of the works that are nearly completed.

Burton Port.

In this important fishing centre, now provided with railway communication, it is impossible for fishing boats to come within half a mile of the quay at low water, owing to the sand bank in the harbour. Arrangements have, however, been made between the County Council and the Congested Districts Board to dredge a channel. An important work in connection with this would be the construction of a wharf wall from the pier head to the rocks, to the southward. The large area thus enclosed could economically be filled by the dredger while at work. I consider that the land so created and the quayside should be retained by the Board, and let at a profit which would thus form a fund for any future dredging that might be necessary, and for the general maintenance of the harbour. As this area would be contiguous to the railway station a siding could easily be laid to the water's edge.

Inishlry Harbour.

The great difficulty of developing the Fisheries along the whole line of coast from Fenit to Killybegs is that between these ports there is no point where the railway is accessible to fishing boats or steamers, at all stages of the tide. If Rosmina Point, on Inishlry Harbour, was connected with the railway, now only two miles distant, the means of despatch for fish from a large section of the coast would be provided, and sea fisheries become profitable.

There is no doubt that a railway pier on this deep water harbour would facilitate all kinds of traffic with a populous part of Connaught, which is already well supplied with distributing lines of railway.

The sea, from Achill to Boffin, abounds with fish, and a small steamer could bring many points within this area, daily in touch with the trains. The difficulty about the fisheries of Clow Bay has always been that the distance from Clow Island to the railway, and the delay involved in getting there, has been more than any fishing boat could attempt if continuous fishing was to be thought of. The most prosperous fishing station which was opened on this part of the coast by the Board, viz.—Cliggan—is handicapped by the carting of the fish to Clifden. Higher prices could be paid and that centre become still more prosperous if delivery was by sea, to Inishlry.

If money were available a fishing harbour at Clare Island or at Achill Beg, which by the same steamer could be brought into connection with Inishllyre, would enable new developments to take place in the Achill district.

The plans and estimates formerly got out for the Inishllyre project should be reviewed, because there is good reason to believe that important alterations would now be made and economies effected.

As Cliggan has been referred to, it is well to state here that an expenditure of from £5,000 to £7,000 is urgently needed to provide the shelter and accommodation which the place acutely needs; but for such works the funds entrusted to the Congested Districts Board are quite inadequate.

Renard Point, Valentia.

Since the railway was opened to Renard Point, on Valentia Harbour, considerable fishery development has taken place in consequence of the improved transit facilities thus provided. No attempt has been made to improve the landing-place, which consists of a small slip. While this was quite sufficient for the ferry boats plying to the island, it is altogether inadequate for the immense fish traffic, which now takes place, in the fishing season, and great congestion of traffic is the result. An expenditure here would produce most beneficial results.

Railway Extension.

Passing from the construction of works which would make the existing transit facilities available, we must consider a much larger question of railway extension. The railway extension most needed in the districts where such undertakings cannot come about as purely commercial enterprises, is one which would bring Belmullet and the harbour of Broadhaven into touch with the markets. If the magnitude of the expenditure involved is quite certain to put such an enterprise out of the question, a very good alternative can be found in a steamer connecting Belmullet with Tonerage on the Achill line. A steamer was worked, independent of tide, on this route by the Congested Districts Board during the time that they worked the spring mackerel fishing at Blackrod.

The great defect in this alternative to a railway is, that it would not reach that portion of Broadhaven which presents great possibilities as a fishing harbour, and which might form a new centre of much importance for that industry.

Any place in Blackrod Bay which could be served by such a steamer, would be too far from the best grounds where drift net fishing can be carried on in the sea outside, whereas the distance from an anchorage in Broadhaven to the fishing ground would be very short.

IRISH STATUTES RELATING TO BOUNTIES.

PRINCIPAL A.

1763.

3 G. III., cap. xiii.

20/- per ton bounty on home-built vessels fishing within 35 leagues of coast.

Export Bounties.

2/- per barrel of 32 gals. of white herrings.

2/6 " " mackerel.

5/- per 6 score of ling.

3/ " " hake, haddock, codfish, conger.

4/3½ per tierce of 41 gals. of wet fish well cured.

£3 per ton on whale oil.

30/- " " other fish oil.

£4 per cwt. whalebone.

1765. Above continued by 5 G. III., cap. vii., for 14 years, from 1st April, 1766.

1775-6.

15, 16 G. III., cap. xiii.

Bounties varying from £40 to £10 on British and Irish ships of 50 tons and upwards engaging successfully in British fishery of Newfoundland.

1781-2.

21, 22 G. III., cap. vi.

6d. per £ deducted from Bounty money for fund to pay fishery inspectors (3) who were practically marine magistrates.

"

Cap. xxi.

1/8 bounty on export per barrel of "full red herrings."

1/- " " " " "clean shotten herrings."

1783-4.

23, 24 G. III., cap. lvi.

Use of Irish sail cloth a condition of bounty.

1785.

25 G. III., cap. xxi.

Bounties equalized with those of Great Britain.

30/- per ton on vessels, decked or partly decked, between 20 and 100 tons.

£3 per ton to builders of vessels on N. W. coast of 30 to 60 tons suitable for deep sea fishing. Such vessels to receive no other bounty for two years after launching. Maximum total payable in this head, £2,000 per annum.

Export Bounties.

2/10½ per 32 gal. barrel white herrings or mackerel.

1/10½ " " herrings cured Yarmouth fashion.

1/1 " " "clean shotten red herrings"

5/5 per 6 score of ling and cod.

3/3 " " hake, haddock, codfish, and conger.

£3 per ton whale or fish oil.

APPENDIX I.

1785. £4 per cwt. whalebone.
Dromedock on salt duties on fish cured for export up to duty on one bushel salt for every barrel of cured fish, and 2d. per cwt. of dried fish.
3 fishery inspectors appointed. 1/- per £ deducted from Bounty money for funds to pay them.
32 G. III., cap. xxiii.
- Above bounties continued to 25 March, 1795.
1785. 25 G. III., cap. xiv.
£30,000 granted to trustees on petition of W. Conyngham for herring fishing. (Rutland Island).
1785. 25 G. III., cap. lvi.
For raising £30,000 on the estate of the Right Hon. W. Conyngham for the development of fisheries in the Barrowport district.
1786. 26 G. III., cap. xc.
2/3 bounty per 32-gal. barrel of "any species of well cured wet fish exported."
1787. 27 G. III., cap. xxi.
Premiums offered of 80, 60, 40, and 20 guineas for the four greatest quantities of herrings caught and brought in between 1st June and 31st December.
Bounties on cod, ling, hake, &c., repeated, and 3/3 per cwt. paid on export of all dried cod, hake, &c.
Balance of fisheries funds, £4,104 8s. 1d. in hands of vice-treasurers of the kingdom to be expended in building light-houses on the N. and W. coasts of the kingdom.
(By cap. I. of 1786 and cap. I. of 1787, a duty of 10/- per barrel was imposed on foreign (not British) herrings imported.)
This duty and all other spare fishery money to be handed over to Commissioners of Revenue for purposes of 26 G. III., cap. xxxv. and this Act.
1787. Cap. I.
Bounties on Irish vessels fishing in the Greenland seas and Davis Straits. Payable till 1791. 30/- per ton.
32 G. III., cap. xxiv.
- 25 G. III., cap. xxxv. and 27 G. III., cap. xxi. continued to 25 March, 1795.
1796. 36 G. III., cap. xl.
Gave permission to form a society for promoting the Irish Fisheries, with £40,000 or more capital. 32 G. III., cap. xxiii. (above) continued to 1799, and by 40 G. III., cap. xi. to 1801.
1798. 38 G. III., cap. v., Schedule A.
Fixes import duties upon fish.
1800. 40 G. III., cap. xxviii.
Bounties to be on same footing as Great Britain after the Union; and no bounty on the export of manufactures, &c., of either country to the other.

GENERAL NOTES FROM CONTEMPORARY AUTHORITIES ON THE STATE OF THE FISHERIES IN THE END OF THE 18th CENTURY.

1775. Irish vessels were given bounties in Newfoundland fishery. Before this date Irish ships had taken part in the fishery, being registered as British by the fishery officers in Newfoundland.—(Wakefield.)
- 1780-86 was "a period during which various spirited and unprecedented efforts were made to promote the trade of Ireland,"—(Newenham.)
1778. Wakefield quotes Young's "Tour in Ireland," pt. II., p. 138, referring to failure of bounties, and frauds committed in connection therewith.
1782. Irish herrings, exported to Barbadoes in bulk, produced a nett profit of £300 on a vessel of 60 tons.—(Miss Murray.)
1783. In the year ending 25th March Ireland exported to West Indies 35,960 lbs. herrings.—(Lord Sheffield.)
1784. In the year ending Lady Day the premiums paid from the Revenue on Irish fishing vessels amounted to £16,527 17s. 5d., and on export of Irish cured fish £3,240 13s. 9½d.
1783. Scots herring, fishing on the north coast of Ireland, were subjected to small fees by some of the Customs-house officers. In 1783 this system became general. A hulk had to pay two guineas for every boat carried, and duty for salt and barrels on board at the time.
1784. The Scots fishermen were forcibly driven away altogether.—(Wakefield.)
1785. Report on the British Fisheries, Vol. X., of this date refers to high reputation of Irish cured herrings.

1788. Lord Sheffield, in this year, says—"The herring fishery was at its height before the Newfoundland fishery became considerable. The former has since decreased. No new market has occurred since the high prosperity of that fishery, except the West Indian."

1788. Salt duties 12s. per ton on import. Regarded as hitherto inferior to Irish Fisheries.—(Lord Sheffield.)
English herrings were imported into Ireland under 2s. 8d. per barrel export bounty in England, and only 1s. duty in Ireland.—(Lord Sheffield.)

PERIOD "B."

After the Union, and in the early part of the 19th century, State assistance to the fisheries continued to take the form of bounties. The herring fisheries, however, began to decline.

1809-11. Bounties were paid as below, during years ending 5th January:—

	1802.	1803.	1804.	1805.	1806.	1807.	1808.	1809.	1810.	1811.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Vessels, ...	4,308	4,350	5,635	5,553	5,791	5,904	7,225	5,179	4,624	4,300
Irish Cured Fish Exported, ...	104	221	303	335	296	315	369	63	22	-
Irish Fish Oil Exported, ...	164	519	571	60	61	-	56	35	15	207
Foreign Cured Fish Imported, ...	-	1,075	-	851	-	-	1,198	4,812	4,661	7,725

(Wakefield.)

1812. Wakefield remarks that, in the course of his tour through the South of Ireland, he found the shore population living in comparative comfort, fish forming a considerable part of their diet.

1819. The establishment of the Irish Fishery Board has been already referred to.

1830. All Fishery Bounties in the United Kingdom came to an end.

PERIOD "C."

1874. 37 and 38 Vic., cap. 85, transferred to the Board of Works the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, which was created by subscriptions raised in England for relief in the Irish Famines of 1822.

1884. A similar fund, "The Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund," was vested in Board of Works.

N.B.—These loan funds are now administered by the Congested Districts Board and the Department of Agriculture.

Late Winter or Early Spring Herring Fishery on the Galway and Donegal Coasts.

In the evidence I gave on October 5th (see replies to Questions 4812 to 4872) I explained that while we now have a summer herring fishery and a valuable autumn fishery on the north-west coasts, the late winter fishery of January and February, which was successfully worked up to 1836 or later, is practically unknown. The following returns for the Aran Islands, Galway Bay (Spiddal), and Teelin, in Donegal, will show that the search has been made. At Teelin, on and off, some five taken have been made, but it is quite clear that the fish are not there at that time of the year in the sense in which they were there at the beginning of the last century.*

QUANTITY OF HERRINGS IN CWTs. LAMDED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

Cwt.			Cwt.		
January.		February.	January.		February.
1822. N. Aran, "	"	"	1800. N. Aran, "	"	12
Spiddal, "	"	1½	Spiddal, "	"	"
Teelin, "	"	40	Teelin, "	"	12
1823. N. Aran, "	"	- No returns.			
Spiddal, "	"	"	1801. N. Aran, "	"	125
Teelin, 42½	"	14½	Spiddal, "	"	"
1824. N. Aran, "	"	"	Teelin, 153	"	4830
Spiddal, "	"	"			
Teelin, "	"	58	1802. N. Aran, 460	"	1265
1825. N. Aran, 16	"	"	Spiddal, 1½	"	"
Spiddal, "	"	"	Teelin, "	"	162
Teelin, 10	"	397½			
1826. N. Aran, "	"	"	1803. N. Aran, 75	"	535
Spiddal, "	"	3½	Spiddal, "	"	"
Teelin, "	"	289½	Teelin, "	"	5
1827. N. Aran, "	"	"			
Spiddal, "	"	"	1804. N. Aran, 213	"	1143
Teelin, 1264½	"	1530	Spiddal, "	"	"
			Teelin, "	"	"
1828. N. Aran, "	"	"	1805. N. Aran, 63	"	581
Spiddal, "	"	"	Spiddal, "	"	"
Teelin, 107½	"	35	Teelin, "	"	"
1829. N. Aran, "	"	"			
Spiddal, "	"	"	1806. N. Aran, "	"	190½
Teelin, 12½	"	455	Spiddal, "	"	"
			Teelin, "	"	"

* Since writing the above a complete change of date has occurred, the Ardara, Malinbeg Fishery proved a complete failure around the north and west coasts until the first week of December, and has gone on all through January of the year 1907, and the experience of the Herring fishery in Donegal is almost exactly similar. W. S. G., Feb. 1. 1907.

APPENDIX I

In the autumn of 1892 the Board opened a Curing Station at Inishceen, near Barmoreport—large quantities of cod and ling were cured. In December of that year, and January of 1893, 616 hundreds of herrings were brought and cured at the station.

Two years later Messrs. Watson, of Derry, and Mr. James Sweeney, of Dingle, took up the curing of herrings, and the Board retired from the trade. By that time the revival of the herring fishery on the Donegal Coast was thoroughly established, but it was in the autumn of each year.

Referring to the evidence I gave on October 5th regarding the first year of the Board's fishery work, I annex the following, extracted from the First Statement made by the Congested District Board to Parliament in 1892:—

"REPORT of the Rev. W. S. GREEN on the Fishery Work of the Board.

Last autumn it was decided by our Board that an attempt should be made to start the spring mackerel fishery at the Aran Islands. I represented that should we succeed in finding and capturing fish there, an industry would be established which would prove of the greatest benefit to the islands and to the neighbouring coasts of Connaught. Seven boats with skilled crews were engaged to come from Arklow and give the place a trial; Miss Mansfield fitted out two boats for the employment of crews from Carna parish; Miss Skerrett provided two for the education of youths from Clifden parish; a hooker belonging to Aran also joined in. The Galway Bay steamer *Citrus* of the *Trilber* was specially subletted to take the fish from Aran to the railway at Galway, a distance of about thirty miles.

Mr. Harvey, of Cork, was arranged with to despatch the fish to the best markets. Our Board lent him a bulk and he deducted 7s. per box from the price the fish fetched in the English markets, to cover expenses of icing, packing, despatching by rail and steamer, and commission in the English markets. Mr. Harvey and his local manager, Mr. Shinnin, gave much satisfaction in carrying out this work. I was instructed by our Board to charter the *S.S. Fingal*, so as to be on the spot and superintend the enterprise. I anchored the *Fingal* in Killybeg Bay in the Aran Islands, on the 8th of March. Before the other boats arrived, we fished with a train of mackerel nets on several nights within about ten miles and less from the islands. The weather was bitterly cold and snow of frequent occurrence. Consequently we captured very few mackerel and herrings. One night after the arrival of the Arklow boats on March 22, they returned from a night's fishing with a perfectly blank result.

The 1st of April passed, and when the 4th came all engaged seemed much dispirited. On that day the Arklow boats went out for another trial. Next day was calm and they did not come in. We walked to the summit of the island and examined the horizon, but there was no sign of the boats. On erroneous rumour that they were becalmed in the South Sound, I steamed thither in the *Fingal*. Next morning, the 5th of April, I was on the shore when a Conquest came and said one of the boats was entering the bay. She was the *True Light*, and as she hauled down her head sails and rounded to at the ice-bulk, we knew to our great delight she had fish at last. The other boats were quickly mustered round the bulk, some having been towed in by the *Fingal*, and that night we ran our first fish to Galway—6,000 fish in all.

Some busy days followed, but on the 12th the weather broke with a fierce north-easterly gale. The fleets were dispersed, and broken weather continued, allowing the boats to go to sea only one or two nights each week.

The heaviest take of all was that of May 16th, when the boats came in with 73,350 fish, which left Galway in two special trains. It was one fair night between the storms, which kept the boats in harbour.

Now we have come to the end of the season. We have to contemplate success in our main project. We have proved two things; that a good fishing can be carried on from Aran, and that with some slight improvements the means of communication are such that the fish can be sent to market at no exorbitant cost. The Arklow boats have earned over an average of £318 per boat for this season. The local boats, with experienced skippers but inexperienced crews, have earned about £70 per boat. This would have been higher had they been ready for the first favourable week when the Arklow men alone earned about £300. In all about £5,000 worth of mackerel have gone from Aran to the public markets, and out of this the fishermen engaged have earned about £3,000.*

The greatest excitement existed amongst the islanders when they saw the harvest that had been so long unreaped, and as they have been altering some fine boats which belong to the islands, and others are being obtained, there is every reason to believe that a great development of native enterprise will be seen next spring. The herring fishery, which we are now entering upon, is one of those unsolved problems of which the less said about beforehand the better.

While the mackerel fishing was proceeding at Aran, we lost no time in seeing about the curing of cod and ling. Bodin was selected as the most promising place for a first effort. Mr. Allies, the resident proprietor of the island, lent a willing hand. We established Mr. Gerverson, our Norwegian curer, there, and on our next visit we found that a development had taken place which exceeded our brightest hopes. The men, stimulated by the certainty of a fixed and constant market, threw themselves heartily into the work; fish came in in such unexpected quantities as almost to be too much to deal with; fortunately a spell of broken weather intervened, and saved the curers. About eighteen tons of fine fish is now cured on the best principle, and that which has gone to market met with a ready sale at a remunerative price.†

* *Statistics of Arklow boats at Aran Island Spring Mackerel Fishery from March 22nd up to June 15th:—Shannon, £370; Red Rover, £235; Mystic Star, £248; Cygnus, £268; Arklow, £337; True Light, £390; St. Fevenot, £248. A balance to be added, also £40 to each man as per contract.*

† During the six weeks Gerverson was at Bodin about 8,000 kg. cod, and haddock were cured. Seven boats were fishing, six men in each boat. Ling cost 6s. 6d. per dozen, cod 2s., and when in worse condition, 1s.; haddock, 2s. Curing gave constant employment to about six men and boys besides the men fishing.

When the work seemed established at Boffin, we moved Gortverson, the curer, to Ardmore, in the parish of Carna, where Mr. O'Kelly and Miss Mansfield had selected a site for a curing station. About here, though there was a dense population, it seemed as though no fishing was carried on—no pillets or long lines were used. The old men said they used to be fished long ago. The case was therefore very different from Boffin and Shark, and I had many doubts as to the possibility of success. It is now rather premature to speak of this station, which is only just started, but the cod and ling are coming in. The fishermen were much pleased at the chance being given to them.

Just at present the herring fishing renders it an unfavourable time of year along the whole of the coast for curing, and it is possible that next week I shall shift our Norwegian curer to another station till the herring season is over. A second curer has been engaged and will be placed on the coast next week. Innishtra Islands, off Mayo, and Teelin in Donegal, are the next sites to be dealt with. On Sunday last we brought on the deck of the *Fingal* an iron house from Roundstone to Aran. It has been erected in the school grounds at Killybegny, and is to be a store for nets and a school for net-making and mending. Mr. James Doyle, skipper of one of the Arklow boats, lately came to the islands and has been engaged as instructor. It is thus hoped that the children may, as they grow up, prove more valuable hands in the fishing boats than they can be at present. Arrangements have now been made with Mr. Harvey to continue his work at Aran, and despatch of our herring and mackerel through the summer and autumn. I have supplied one of Miss Skeeritt's boats with herring nets, and nets are ordered for the other, and also for Miss Mansfield's boat and some local boats that intend to take part in the fishing. Father O'Donoghue and Sir Thomas Brady have, with the fund they collected, built two boats—one, the "*Father O'Donoghue*," will soon reach Aran and join our little herring fleet. An English gentleman, Mr. A. Davis, has ordered two boats to be built for the Aran fishing—one is being built in the Isle of Man and the other in Galway. These I propose to man with picked hands from South Connemara. The herring fishing is as yet an untried experiment, but as the curing of the harvest mackerel will be worked at the same time it is hoped remunerative employment will be found for all engaged, and sheds for the accommodation of the curing work have been arranged for on the Quay at Aran.

W. S. GREEN.*

17th June, 1892.

The history of the Congested Districts Board's fishery work since that period is to be found in the annual reports.

* Where means of communication and fish supply make fishing a profitable business, the Board are enabling the fishermen of the western coast to acquire equipments far superior to any they possessed in the old days. Where the conditions for profitable fishing do not exist, it is useless to encourage fishermen to incur the expense of large boats and complicated gear. It may be possible to induce crews from the districts where favourable conditions do not exist to become sailors and move quickly to distant places where the chances are better. This the Board will continue to encourage.

W. S. G.

November 1st, 1906.

C—MEMORANDUM ON CONDITION OF FISHERIES.

When I was examined before this Commission on the 8th of last October I was asked to furnish (see Question 5156) a short report on the condition of the fisheries, divided into four periods, beginning from 1775 to the end of the nineteenth century. As my next examination was then fixed for the 12th of November, I prepared such notes as I could bring together, and they were placed in the hands of the Commission early in November. They should be taken as supplementary to my evidence on same subject from Question 4607 to 4620.

Since preparing the memorandum above referred to, an important change of date has taken place in the arrival of both the autumn mackerel and the winter herrings.

I was further asked (see Question 5235) to pass under review—

- (A) The ports selected by the Congested Districts Board along the coasts of the congested districts as centres for fishery development;
- (B) Whether those ports, in view of subsequent experience, have been conveniently selected;
- (C) Whether any of them should be abandoned;
- (D) Whether new ones should be selected, having regard to the aptitude of the people engaging in fishing;
- (E) Whether there are at those places adequate facilities for boats suitable to the available fisheries;
- (F) Whether the facilities are such as would be required in case of further developments, and, if they are not adequate, what is necessary to make them so.

With regard to "A."—At the time when the Congested Districts Board was established, it seemed to me that there were four classes of fishing capable of development, and suitable for the coast and island populations of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, and Donegal, with which we had specially to deal. These were—

- (1.) The Spring Mackerel Fishery (for sale, fresh).
- (2.) The Autumn Mackerel Fishery (for curing).
- (3.) Long-line fishing for cod and ling (for curing).
- (4.) The Herring Fishery (fresh and curing).

"1" required large-decked boats and men capable of managing them.

"2," "3," and "4" might be worked by existing boats and crews.

As the herring fishery developed it was found that large boats would be necessary to work it efficiently.

For "1" (see my replies to Questions 4754 to 4760) we selected the Aran Islands as headquarters for the island fishermen and for S. Connemara.

Later (see Question 4761) we decided that the fishermen of Inishboffin and Inishark would form good crews, and that the sea outside those islands was suitable for the fishing, but for facilities of despatch we selected Cleggan Bay as headquarters.

In connection with the fishing in this area, the fishermen of Sizer Head complained that they could not come to Cleggan. A depot for ice was, therefore, established for them at Clifden railway station, and the creek of Donoughmore was improved for their boats.

Next, we wished to give the fishermen of Erris and Achill a chance of taking part in this fishing, and selected Blackhead Point as a centre—Broadhaven, which would have been better, being too remote. After six years' working this station (see reply to Question 4751) had to be abandoned, as the transit and other difficulties became too great.

About this time the Aran and Connemara fleet had assumed such dimensions that a barge was found to go to Roundstone and despatch his fish via Ballinahealy station, on the Galway and Clifden line. This divided the fleet that hitherto had concentrated at Aran for the spring fishing.

For "2" the autumn mackerel fishing, which not being a fresh fish trade, and not consequently dependent on rapid despatch, we selected Aran, Roundstone, Donoughmore, Cleggan, Inishboffin, Inishark,

Tully, Glane Island, Doagh, Inishlee, Blackhead, Meenacrossa, Iaver (in Broadhaven), Portlaoine, Portlaoine, and Belding. Those pointed in italics have been successful and have expanded. Iaver and Doagh failed, and the others have occasionally been successful.

For "3" (the catching and curing of cod, ling, &c.), we selected Aran, Glane, Mayo, Inishboffin, Doagh, Inishlee, Iaver (Broadhaven), Keemore, Portlaoine, Portlaoine, Teelin, Clonbeg, Inishoe (in the Rosne), Tory Island, and Douring's Bay. When this work began prices for cured fish were high in the English markets—our best market was Liverpool—but they dropped very quickly, fish became scarce (see Question 4947), and what was caught fetched better prices fresh at these stations from which quick despatch was possible. Except at Tory and Aran, the trade showed no inclination to take the Board's place. At many places where it had been worked the more valuable herring fishing took its place, and the curing of cod and ling came to an end.

For "4," Aran, numerous places in South Connemara, Inishboffin, Cleggan, Glane Island, Douring's Point (Achill), Blackhead, Keemore, Portlaoine, Portlaoine, Teelin, Killybegs, Rosbeg, Traunagh, Inishoe, Keshoe, Moughrogh, Gola Islands, Tory Island, Douring's Bay, and Malinbeg were selected.

At those in italics it had been more or less successful, at others it has been sometimes successful, while at some the mackerel fisheries have absorbed all the attention of the fishermen.

With regard to the above selections, it may be well to state that when the Board began work fishing was in progress for cod and ling, &c., for local demand at some of them, and at a few others not named, such as the creeks from Malinbeg to Lough Foyle, St. John's Point, and a few other places.

With regard to "B."—The ports selected have either been conveniently situated or risks were run in their selection on account of the needs of the adjacent population. A very few have ceased to be worked for any fishing of commercial importance.

With regard to "C."—The question regarding abandonment does not apply, for although the Board had, at first, to act as buyers, curers, and merchants, all their enterprises have been taken up by the trade, and the Board do not now buy fish at any of the stations named.

With regard to "D."—If improved facilities for despatch were provided, or if herrings turned up in paying quantities in places where they are now only occasional visitors, new stations might need to be opened. But there are so many merchants and curers now on the coast, that they need only hear of a fishing being successful to come there and buy. As an instance of this, we have for some time thought that in the Keemore River, inside the region where mackerel fishing is prosecuted, a profitable herring fishery might be established. We issued suitable notes on terms to small farmers who have boats, over a year ago, and deposited salt and barrels. This year the experiment has proved a success. But the Board had not to buy fish. A curer from the Galway coast turned up, bought the herrings at a price which pleased the fishermen, and cured them fit for any market as a private speculation.

With regard to "E."—In the memorandum I handed in last November, I showed that some of the piers that had been built with the assistance of Government grants in previous years were found to be of service when the Board's fishery work began in 1892. At other places, where the prospects of fishing were good, no landing places had been provided, and many of the piers that had been built were of no use at all.

In some of the districts where the prosecution of the spring mackerel or herring fishery calls for large-decked boats, drawing six or more feet of water, the accommodation is certainly insufficient. This was demonstrated by the disaster which occurred in Douring's Bay on December 3, when twelve fine boats,

many of them being quite new, were totally lost, and in the same gale one boat was lost in Cloggan Bay, and at Aros a similar disaster occurred some years since, accompanied, unfortunately, with serious loss of life.

In all these cases the boats were destroyed when anchored in the best shelter available.

There are other places which might be suitable for large boat fishing, if railway facilities and port accommodation were provided.

Besides these places where large boat fishing might go on, there are at least 100 places where fishing by small boats would be facilitated by small expenditures and improvement.

As the maps will show, the Congested Districts Board has done much for such small creeks, but often had to stop short of what was desirable for lack of funds.

With regard to "F."—If herring should return to Lough Swilly, there is no safe anchorage for large boats until they run thirteen miles from the entrance of the Lough to Rathfriland, and the accommodation for row boats in the outer part of the Lough is defective.

The railway facilities at Bunzama make it a desirable place for boats to fish from, and it has been used for a month or six weeks each year by large Scotch herring boats that come for the summer fishing. The port accommodation at Bunzama is not sufficient for landing fish, as the pier is inaccessible at low water. It is doubtful, however, if the local fishermen of Lough Swilly would be inclined to keep and work large boats at the herring fishery, but until they have some chance for harbouring such boats in safety near their homes there is no way of putting the question to a practical test. A few small trawlers work in the inner portion of the Lough.

Newbridges might be made into a safe harbour, and has been examined by the engineers of the Congested Districts Board and of the Board of Works and reported upon.

Fishing west, Port-na-ling has frequently been put forward as a place for improved harbour accommodation, and was, I think, fully discussed when the Commissioners sat in Donegal.

Downing's Bay, the most successful of the stations started by the Board, is really in need of a safe harbour for the valuable fleet which makes it their headquarters at the summer and also the winter herring fishery.

When giving my evidence before the Commission in Dublin, I stated (see Question 5196) that Downing's

Bay "is not a place where vessels can live all the year round," meaning thereby "in all weathers." This, unfortunately, has since proved to be too true.

At the time Downing's Bay pier was built a very heated correspondence took place between Mr. Harle, who was then County Surveyor for Donegal, and the Board of Works as to the selection of the site. I do not know who selected the exact site, but with regard to that particular point, Mr. Harle was, I think, in the right. Anyway the best site was not selected.

It might have been argued in support of what was done, that the money available out of the Relief of Distress Fund, viz., £6,295, was insufficient to make any impression at the right site, in the little creek to the westward of the existing pier.

At the time these piers were built no important fishing was in progress to guide the Commissioners, and piers had to be set down more or less on general principles, trusting that at some time there would be a fishing.

The various Commissions seem to have been bewildered between most exaggerated accounts of the fishing possibilities on the one hand and general principles of harbour construction on the other. Ideal harbours could not be built everywhere—expenditure had to be distributed along the coast. So it came about that a lot of piers were set down which struck the average. The average was extravagant. The majority of such works were unnecessary for small boat-fishing, while none were good enough for large boats. (See Question 4853, &c.)

These remarks refer to the pier. What we have now to face is that a safe harbour in Downing's Bay is urgently needed. A good site to the westward of the pier exists, but at no reasonable cost could a safe harbour be made where the pier now is. A harbour at the best site could probably be built for £30,000.

This may appear a large sum, but it must be borne in mind that the herrings landed there, if we take into consideration the wages earned in curing them, are worth £35,000 a year to the County of Donegal.

I have, in the memorandum I handed in November, referred to a few other works which seem desirable.

The old Commissioners did not act up to their duty in providing harbours suitable for large craft, because they could not feel sure where such harbours should be. Now there can be little doubt about a few sites where expenditure is urgently needed.

The maps submitted show almost all the marine works existing on the coasts of the congested districts, whether constructed under the Board of Works, the Congested Districts Board, or various Commissions for the relief of distress.

APPENDIX II.

DOCUMENT put in by Mr. A. T. DUTHIE in connection with the Evidence given by him before the Commission.

NOTES OF EVIDENCE.

(1.) CONDITIONS OF THE FISHERIES SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT.

Joined Board's service in October, 1893. Board had just opened Inchmurrain curing station for herrings. During the spring and summer months previous this station was opened for cod and ling. Same glasses were cured there.

J. & R. Watson, Derry, also opened a curing station at Burtport in October, 1893, for herrings.

A few weeks later herring curing stations were opened at Inchmurrain, off Gweedore, and at Downing's Bay. Cod and ling were also cured at Downing's during the previous spring and summer months by the Board. The Board also opened curing stations during the spring of 1893 at Teelin and Malinbeg, where considerable quantities of cod and ling and some glasses were cured. Some thirty years previous to this, cod and ling were cured at Teelin, but this fell off owing to the scarcity of fish, and I could find no trace of herrings ever being gutted or packed cured before the Board began its work, and, except at Downing's, where herrings were fished at times in small quantities to supply local trade, no herrings seem to have been fished for many years—probably fifty to sixty years—on the Donegal coast, from Teelin to Lough Swilly. The men did not fish and they spent a good part of each year working in Scotland at such labour as they could find.

During next few seasons the Board opened curing stations for herrings at Magheragallon, Gortacash, and Boleog on the Donegal coast, at Rathfriland on the Sligo coast. They also opened stations for cod, ling, mackerel and herrings at Inchmurrain Island, Tory Island, Malin Head, and Dooishall Island in Donegal, and at Belderg, Portlouis, Portlouis, Riarree, Inver, Malinbeg, Inishkeen Island, Dooishall Island, Clare Island, Inishkeen Island in Co. Mayo, Tully, Inishkeeffe Island, Claggan, Roundstone, Trahan, the three Aran Islands, County Galway. They also opened herring curing stations for one or two seasons at Lettermallock and Connello Bay, South Conamara.

In its early days the Board in its efforts to develop fisheries, not only made loans to fishermen for boats, nets, and fishing gear, but bought and marketed nearly all the fish caught, as there were no other buyers then, and for some years the Board had to be the fish merchants.

For many years before the Board began its work there was practically no fishing on these coasts and not much interest was taken in fishing. Yards of small fish, and at many places only crabs were in use, and nets and lines were primitive and not fit to catch many fish.

(2.) PROGRESS OF HERRING FISHERY, CO. DONEGAL.

Since it was started in 1893 herring fishing in Donegal has made steady and satisfactory progress. For the first few years (except at Burtport, where Messrs Watson, Derry, had a curing station) the Board bought and cured the whole of the herrings caught from Teelin to Downing's. They bought and trained boys and girls to gut, pack, and cure herrings. This was done on the most advanced manner same as in Scotland, and the herrings were done up to suit both the Irish, Continental and American markets. In these days the Board sold the bulk of their cured herrings in Ireland.

After two or three seasons, fish merchants, local and from Scotland and England, came to Donegal coast and bought and cured herrings. Steamers came from Glasgow and bought and carried herrings fresh to Glasgow. The Board were soon relieved of their curing stations and were free to devote their attention to the developing of fisheries. There are now over sixty herring owners and herring merchants buying, curing, and marketing herrings on the Donegal coast. There is always a brisk demand for the herrings and high prices are paid to the fishermen for them; the superior quality of the herrings helps the price and is the chief reason for their being so high. The most of the trade in herrings is carried on upon the same lines as the Board began it, viz., by curing. Large quantities are sent fresh from Burtport, both by

rail and by direct steamer to Glasgow, and there is also a kippers establishment at Edinisk, near Burtport, where herrings are kippered for the English markets, but the most of the herrings landed on the Donegal coast are cured.

For the Autumn herring catch of 1893 not more, and perhaps less than £1,000 would be the total earnings made by fishermen, another £200 would be made by workers at curing.

For the Autumn fishing, 1905, fishermen made over £40,000. Workers at curing, including carters, made about £10,000. At such stations as Downing's, the herrings are all carted to the curing stations and after they are cured are again carted to the Pier for shipment.

When the fishing is good everyone in the locality—men, boys, and girls are employed at curing. Good workers among the girls at curing earn up to £2 a week when the fishing is good. They are paid from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per barrel gutted and packed.

In May, 1905, the Board bought and cured some summer-catch herrings at Teelin. The herrings were sent to Germany and sold at prices equal to those paid for Castletown herrings. From then on to 1901 some small lots of herrings were got during May and June at Teelin and Tory Island. In 1901, a decided attempt at summer herring fishing was made at Downing's. Several fish cures arranged with some Scotch boats on subsidy to fish from Downing's during May, and to do experiment the Board gave a subsidy of £4 per week each to six boats for four weeks in order to see whether a fishing could be developed.

The experiment was successful, and since then herring fishing has gone on increasing every summer. The whole of the Board's large-sized boats engage in it. Last May and June fifty of them fished from Downing's and about a dozen from Teelin. The Board's boats have always fished as well as the Scotch sailing boats and their herrings readily sell at the highest prices.

The Downing's herrings are the finest caught in the kingdom and sell at the highest prices in the German and Russian markets, where all the summer herrings are sold, and in New York, where the autumn herring are mostly all sold.

(3a.) BARREL-MAKING BY THE BOARD.

In order to provide barrels for curing their herrings and mackerel the Board, in 1895, opened a coöperage for the making of barrels at Teelin, under the charge of a competent Scotch coöper. Six local lads were taken on to serve an apprenticeship of four years, and the work was carried on satisfactorily. In 1896, the Board secured suitable premises at Burtport where they opened another coöperage—the success of the herring fishing at Burtport made this a necessity. Local lads were taken on as apprentices same as at Teelin and the coöperage was put in charge of a Scotch foreman coöper. The coöperage has been a steady success. Fifteen apprentices in all have been engaged and have served, or are serving the usual four years of apprenticeship. Except the foreman, the whole of the coopers and apprentices belong to the locality and were trained in the coöperage.

The whole of the barrels made at Burtport have been sold in the locality and the industry has paid its way and stood upon its own legs.

Owing to the importance of the Downing's herring fishing, about three years ago, the Board closed the Teelin coöperage and moved their plant to Downing's where new and suitable premises were built by Lord Leitrim and rented to the Board for a coöperage. A Scotch foreman is also in charge here, and seven apprentices are at present serving a term of four years in the coöperage. All the barrels made can be sold at Downing's and the industry pays its way.

The Board allow their apprentices liberty to work for others during the herring fishing seasons in order to learn herring curing, and they all take advantage of this liberty, herring curing and barrel-making being looked upon as one and the same industry.

In all twenty-eight apprentices have served and are serving their apprenticeships in the Board's Donegal coöperage.

(2.) LONG LINE FISHING, COD AND LING.

Cod and ling fishing was carried on by yaws from Teelin and Malinbeg, and also from Tory Island during the early years of the Board's work with very satisfactory results. At the North Mayo stations—from Portlartin to Malinbeg, and at Inishkeena, cod and ling were fished in canoes. This fishing was also tried for a few seasons from Donagh, Achill Island. At the Donagh stations large quantities of cod and ling were got. These were mostly all bought from the fishermen and cured by the Board. At the North Mayo stations fair catches were also got and all were bought and cured by the Board. For a good many years this was the principal fishing at these Donagh and Mayo stations, and a good deal of money was earned by the men. In order to find out whether cod and ling could be got farther out to sea, the Board contracted with three large Scotch boats to fish from Teelin during the spring of 1894 with the same class of long lines that is used on the Scotch coast. The experiment was satisfactory, good takes of cod, ling, and mackerel were got. This led to the introduction of an improved type of boat, and the first two sails boats were got from Scotland and given to Teelin crews. For a number of years these boats—which were soon largely increased in number—did very well at long line fishing and the Teelin men were the first to go to Downing's Bay in the sails boats to the autumn herring fishing, which since then has developed so rapidly. Skilled Scotch fishermen were placed as instructors in charge of each boat, and under them the crews soon picked up the improved style of fishing, both with lines and nets.

About the same time some Greenacres yaws were given to crews on the North Mayo coast, where the men previously only fished in canoes. A Scotch fisherman was sent by the Board to instruct each crew in handling the yaws and also in fishing with long lines during the spring months. For a number of years this resulted in a much increased catch of cod and ling. The Board also had a curing station at Inishkeena Island, and at Trillick, Co. Galway, and later they opened a station at the South Aran Islands, Killybegs, and at the Middle Aran Islands, and for a number of years good fishings were got. Greenacres yaws were introduced at South Aran, and at Killybegs the nobbies were used for long line fishing. Both at Killybegs and South Aran Scotch fishermen were employed as instructors in long line fishing.

During last few years there has been a considerable falling off in long line fishing. Cod and ling have not been so plentiful as they were, and on the Donagh coast fishermen have devoted their energy more to the summer and autumn herring fishing and to vendoring their nets. During seasons in the late nineties earnings up to £150 a boat were made at long line fishing by sails and nobbies, and although this fishing has been rather poor for a few seasons, I fully expect that good catches will again be got.

(4.) INTRODUCTION OF BETTER TYPES OF BOATS.

I mentioned the introduction of sails boats at Teelin in 1893. This type of boat has been so successful that now about eighty have been given to Donagh crews upon the shore system. They are now almost entirely employed in herring fishing and in order to adapt them for both summer and autumn fishing larger and improved boats are now built. For years the Board has had more applications for sails boats than they have been able to supply. The development of spring mackerel fishing on the Galway coast led to the introduction of nobbies. This class of boat is very suitable for mackerel fishing and there are also some nobbies owned by Donagh crews about Buntop employed in the herring fishing.

(5.) MARKETS FOR IRISH CURED FISH ABROAD AND IN IRELAND.

The Board's dried cod and ling were mostly all sold in Liverpool and Belfast and they had no difficulty in years when they had large quantities to sell in finding a ready sale for these fish at good prices.

Cured mackerel are all sold in America, which is about the only market for them and in which they can be sold. During last twelve months over 50,000 barrels were exported from Ireland to America.

Other markets than America have been tried for cured mackerel, particularly on the Continent of Europe, but from none of them have satisfactory prices been got, so that America remains the one market for Irish cured mackerel.

In the years that the Board cured herrings in Donagh they sold the most of them in Ireland. From the years 1894 to 1907 the Board cured from 1,500 to over 2,000 barrels herrings each year.

Since 1897 the Board have scarcely cured any herrings owing to so many merchants now being engaged in this business. These firms have opened up and developed markets in other countries for Irish cured herrings. The autumn cured Donagh herrings are mostly all sold in New York, where Downing's Bay herrings sell at the highest price paid for cured herrings there. The prices for Downing's herrings are closely followed by other Donagh cured herrings. There are still small quantities of Donagh cured herrings sold in Ireland, but higher prices can usually be got for them in America. I would estimate that about 25,000 barrels Donagh herrings were sent to America last autumn, all of which were sold at satisfactory prices.

Summer cured herrings are mostly all sent to markets in Germany and Russia, although some small parcels are sent to New York. These herrings make the top prices and sell higher than any other herrings (not excepting the famous Caskelby or Rara herrings) both in Germany and Russia. The fishermen get the full benefit of these prices. Last summer from £3 to £5 a cran was paid in Downing's for herrings from the start to the close of the fishing.

From the New York Fishing Gazette of 20th October.

The price for Downing's Bay herring has been largely utilized to excite the cupidity of shallow pates in Canada and Newfoundland. They have imported "experts" to show them how the trick is turned whereby herrings are quadrupled in value. It has not yet developed—save in paper.

(6.) FISH CURING.

The Board in its early years worked a number of fish curing stations on the Donagh, Mayo, and Galway coasts, and bought and cured most of the cod and ling, mackerel and herrings. They employed skilled fish curers in the several branches of curing and taught and trained the local workers in curing.

They endeavored to work as far as possible upon business lines. That the whole of their herring and mackerel curing stations have been taken up by fish merchants and carried on by them upon the same lines as the Board did, is proof of the soundness of the footing on which the Board carried on its work.

During 1895 the Board sold cod and ling to the amount of £2,352; herrings, £1,600; mackerel, £12. During 1896, cod and ling, £1,133; herrings, £2,235. In 1897, cod and ling, £1,517; herrings, £2,597. In 1898, cod and ling, £3,104; herrings, £288.

Since 1896 the Board has almost entirely ceased to cure herrings and mackerel, and the most of the cod and ling and other fish taken on long lines have been bought by fish merchants and sold fresh.

In 1896 the Board had a profit on their cod and ling curing of £298, a loss of £34 on herrings, and a loss of £256 on mackerel. In 1896 a loss of £14 on cod and ling, a profit of £344 on herrings. In 1897, a loss of £355 on cod and ling, a profit of £324 on herrings, and a profit of £357 on mackerel. In 1898, a loss of £72 on cod and ling, and a loss of £74 on mackerel.

This shows a profit of £330 on the Board's fish curing during the years that it carried on this work. I would point out that this result was obtained during the years that the Board started the fishings and also the curing stations.

(7.) SHARE-BOAT SYSTEM.

By giving boats to new crews in Donagh upon the share-system the Board has enabled men to obtain large boats and fishing gear who were too poor to get boats by any other means, and could not get securities necessary for large loans or pay any part of the cost of the boats and gear themselves.

The Board were also better able to control the crews in looking after the boats and fishing gear and keeping them in good order. The Board also made it a condition that each man of the crew would be taught to mend his share of the nets and in a general way to look after his share of the fishing gear.

APPENDIX II.

The plan of providing a skilled fishery instructor for each boat for a few seasons at the start has been found to be a necessity in order to give the crews a training in working the boats and fishing gear. So long as a boat has an instructor a ninth share of her earnings is placed to the credit of instruction in terms of the agreement which the crew sign when a boat is given them.

When the crew can work themselves without an instructor this ninth share is placed along with other three shares to the making fund. The crew always receive five-ninths of the earnings, and when the boat and gear are paid for they are then handed over to the crew and become their property. While the boat and nets are being paid up they remain the property of the Board and the boats are registered in the Board's name.

The Donegal fishermen prefer to get boats upon the share-system and up to the present about eighty boats have been given in Donegal crews. Of these six boats have been paid up and formally handed over to the crews and are now the crew's property. At least another dozen are paid up, and they will be formally handed over to the crews at the close of the present autumn fishing.

For some years more boats have been applied for upon the share-system than the Board could supply. Usually from six to nine new main boats, all of the largest size, are given each year to Donegal crews.

The share-system was first tried at Teelin where it did so well that crews from other parts of the Donegal coast applied for boats upon it, and they prefer having boats upon the share-system rather than getting them by loan.

The Donegal share boats are now mostly used as herring fishing and for this fishing they are specially adapted.

(3.) PROSPECTS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Prospects of future development on the Donegal coast and upon the share-system are good and likely to bring about an increase to the present fleet of boats. The best means to help on this is for the Board to continue as they have been doing, and in all cases where new boats are built to build them of a size suitable for both summer and autumn herring fishing and to continue the arrangement of providing instructors to new crews. It is not wise to give too many boats in one season, as it would be too big an undertaking to have more than, say, from six to nine new crews in one season. Besides, the Board's funds would not permit of giving more than this number of boats on the share-system.

The fishing upon the Mayo coast is a harder problem to solve, so far it has not made much headway there, especially fishing with large boats.

At several places where there are fishermen, harbours are unsuitable and there is no safe landing or advantage for large boats. If the Board had funds and were to make a continuous and steady effort under the charge of a thorough practical fisherman as head instructor and a few good instructors working under him, I think something could be done towards developing fishings in North Mayo. Large boats could fish from Broadhaven, which is not far from Portaferry and Portlouis, where most of the fishermen reside.

During the present year a number of nobbies have been given to crews about Darby's Point, Achill Island, on the loan-system. A few of these took part in the spring mackerel fishing from Darby's Point and did well. Since then they have been fishing herrings and have done fairly well. The undertaking is only in its infancy, and there has not been much experience to guide us. I think, however, that the crews would in most cases require to get an instructor for a few seasons.

At Clere Island a successful fishing could be developed were the islanders to take it up. During the autumn of 1905 a considerable fishing of very fine herrings was got there, and the Board's representatives cured the most of them after buying them from the fishermen as there was no other means of selling the herrings.

The boats and nets on Clere Island are not up-to-date by any means, but with them improved and an effort made to push the fishing, I am convinced that it would succeed. At Lisahally Island, and at Tully on the mainland, autumn mackerel are got. The Board built curing stations at both these places and

they have been let to a firm of fish merchants for the last few years. It will take a considerable effort to develop fishing any further, either from Tully or Lisahally.

At Lisahally, when the Board began its fishery work, considerable quantities of ling were caught and cured. Since then mackerel fishing, both in spring and in autumn, has been carried on with success, mostly in small boats. From its ordinary position Lisahally is easy of access to the fishing grounds. At Cleggan on the mainland and opposite Lisahally, an important spring and autumn mackerel fishing is carried on by large boats (nobbies), and also at Roundstone, on the south side of Slea Head. A considerable number of nobbies are owned by fishermen in the Carrigrohilly and Liscannore districts. These usually fish mackerel from Aran Island and Roundstone during spring, and from Galway and Aran during the autumn herring fishing. At Aran Island (Kilronan) there is also a large fleet of nobbies that fish for mackerel in spring, herrings in autumn, and with long lines for cod and ling in winter. The most of the large boats, from Kilronan to Cleggan, have been given upon the loan-system.

Along the shores, from Costello Bay to Killybegs, there is a large population who have not yet taken to fishing. There are no industries, except the sale of turf, and the people are poor. It is certainly a good field for the Board to endeavour to develop fishings in. Special consideration would require to be given to any scheme that might be tried. The men would need to be taken firmly in hand and a strict system of instruction carried on. They should only get boats upon the share-system same as in Donegal. They could not manage to get boats upon loans and they would not be able to get satisfactory security for loans. It would be the work of years to train the men in fishing, and there is the drawback that the fishing grounds near their own shores might not be productive enough to support them. But there is no other means than by fishing within their reach to benefit them, and the land is so poor that no relief can be looked for from it.

(3.) SUPPLY OF NETS AND GEAR, HERRING AND MACKEREL FISHING.

The most of the herring nets used by the Board's share boats in Donegal are manufactured in Ireland, mostly by Messrs. Wm. Barber and Sons, Lisherry, although they have got considerable quantities of nets from manufacturers in Scotland. The nets, however, are all mounted, backed, and made ready for fishing under the charge of the Board's chief fishery instructor at Downing's Bay, and the work is usually done by the Board's fishery instructors a few weeks before the herring fishing begins.

Since the fleet of boats increased so much, from 500 to 700 nets are required in a season, and it is necessary to have these mounted at Downing's where ample storage and provision for doing the work can be got.

The nets are let to the boats at their net cost to the Board, including a charge of 10s. each net for the mounting done by the instructors. The price charged for each net is sufficient to pay all charges for mountings—cutch, tar and oil used. The crews prefer nets mounted by the instructors and will only in cases when they cannot do otherwise take nets mounted by net manufacturers. The crews, however, mend all their nets, and although most of them could not do this at first, they have been all taught to mend by the instructors. This net mending has always come under the Board's fishery instruction work in Donegal.

The most of the mackerel nets upon the Galway and Mayo coasts have been got from the makers mounted and ready for fishing, and the same with herring nets, although in some cases crews may have mounted the nets themselves.

While nets are being mounted by the instructors, crews get practical instruction in net mounting, and in many cases have given assistance at the work.

(10.) BARREL MAKING IN KERRY AND COKE.

Soon after the Board began barrel making at Teelin and Burtisport, some coopers in Kerry laid before the Board the position in which they were placed owing to the failure of their trade in making better skines, and asked whether the Board would make enquiries

and assist them in some way to develop the making of barrels for cured mackerel. Large quantities of mackerel are cured in Kerry and coasts got all their barrels from Scotland and England.

The Board made enquiries by sending officials to the districts. The result of these were, that during 1898 a number of coopers from Kerry were brought by the Board to their cooperages at Teelin and Buncopet and given two months' instruction in barrel making.

The Board paid their travelling expenses from Kerry to Donegal and back, and paid the coopers 15s. a week during the time they were working in Donegal. With their previous knowledge of coopersing this training was sufficient to fit them for making barrels, but when they returned to Kerry they were unable to obtain timber suitable for barrel making and they applied again to the Board to come to their assistance in getting them a supply of staves and other materials.

By way of beginning then the Board sent about 40,000 superficial ft. staves (sufficient to make about 2,500 barrels), the same sort of timber as they used in their own cooperages in Donegal and obtained from Sweden. The supplies were given to the coopers by way of lease, payable in from six to nine months, and interest was charged, and has always been charged for the time the loans run. This was the beginning of barrel making in Kerry. The work has increased every year, and the supplies of staves and materials given last year to coopers in Kerry and Cork amounted to 400,000 sup. ft. sufficient to make about 25,000 barrels.

The staves have always been carried to Kerry and Cork by the Board's steamer "Granville," bringing them from the east coast of Scotland, where they have been reported from Sweden. A reasonable freight for the "Granville" has always been added to the cost of the staves and also all other necessary expenses have been charged to the coopers.

This industry has been developed without any outlay on the Board's part. Their part has been simply to arrange for the supplies of materials. This requires a good deal of work in attending to purchase of staves, iron hoops, etc., and arranging their distribution among the various coopers. The payments on the coopers' part have always been met promptly and the Board has never made a loss of one penny in developing this industry.

(11.) MATERIALS FOR BARREL MAKING.

The whole of the staves and heading used by the Board at their own cooperages and supplied to coopers in Kerry, Cork and Galway have been imported from Sweden. The Board has made it a point to only purchase the best quality of timber suitable for making barrels such as will hold pickle and carry the cured fish to the markets in America and on the Continent of Europe in good condition.

It is necessary to have the best of barrels, as no matter how good the cure may be, should barrels be inferior and the timber not hold the pickle, the fish soon get spoiled and inferior. Some timber is so porous and open in the grain that pickle comes through it and in a short time the barrels are dry. This always causes complaints and often leads to damage being claimed by the merchants from cures. In the past, the inferior quality of the barrels sent to America with cured mackerel from Ireland has tended more than perhaps any other cause to the numerous complaints made about mackerel cured in Ireland. Fewer complaints as to inferior barrels are now made, and this has been due chiefly to the improved materials that the barrels are made of.

Wood hoops have been imported from England, France, and some from America. The hoops from America were undoubtedly the best, but the price too high, the cost being about three times as much as from England and France.

Iron hoops have all been got from England.

(12.) INSTRUCTION IN FISHING.

APPENDIX II.

When new crews or beginners go into large boats without any previous experience either in fishing or handling the boats a course of instruction is, in my opinion, absolutely necessary. In order to carry out this, only skilled fishermen and, as far as possible, men of high character should be employed as instructors.

In most cases it is necessary to combine the instruction for a succession of fishings in order to render the crews fit to carry on the work themselves. In several cases, however, crews have been found who are able after having had an instructor for one or two fishings to carry on the work themselves, and in these cases the results are usually very creditable to the crews, some of the boats having been among the best fished of any on the Donegal coast. When new crews are taken in hand it requires a season or two till their abilities are shown and they are able to get a grasp of the work. In many cases men have become members of crews who never had any experience of either fishing or going to sea, and it would be impossible to tell how they will turn out till after they have had the experience of several fishings. The advantage of having a skilled instructor is seen in cases like these, as he can take charge of the boat and also instruct the crew.

(13.) BOAT BUILDING IN IRELAND.

Boat building during the last six or seven years has been done at the Killybegs Industrial School. The Board provided a competent foreman instructor and also paid the wages of several apprentices during their apprenticeship. A number of very fine sloop boats have been built there for the Donegal coast and several nobbies have been built for the Galway coast.

The work goes on briskly, and at present the school is under contract to supply the Board with three large slops, all to be ready in time to take part in the summer herring fishing, which opens on the 1st of May, 1907.

The Board also have a boat building yard at Killybegs, Arara Island, where some very fine nobbies and sloop boats have been built, but since the death of the foreman instructor two years ago, together with the difficulty in getting timber, and other boat building materials delivered at Killybegs at reasonable prices, the Board find that the cost of boats built there is too high as compared with what they can be obtained for at other places, and for the present they are not building boats at Killybegs. The last boat, a sloop built by three of the Killybegs lads who served their apprenticeship in the yard, was launched in September, since then the yard has been closed. Nobbies have been built at Baltimore, Arlow, and Portlough, for the Galway and Mayo coasts. A sloop was built at Arlow last summer for the Donegal coast, and other two slops are now being built at Arlow also for the Donegal coast.

The Board, however, has got the larger part of their boats built in Scotland, where they have been got fitted out and ready for fishing at a moderate cost. It looks, however, as if the Board will now be able to get most, if not all their boats built in Ireland.

LIGHTS AT FISHING HARBOURS.

Previous to the Board's formation there were no lights at the most of the fishing harbours along the West coast. The Board have, however, at every place where fishing is carried on to any extent, erected lights, either temporary or stationary—mostly stationary—at all the principal stations. These have been found of immense service, seeing that without lights it is impossible to carry on the extensive fishing with large boats. Not only has the Board erected the lights, but at many of the places they maintain and keep them going, at others they have been taken over and maintained by the County Councils.

APPENDIX III.

DOCUMENTS put in by Mr. W. J. D. WALKER in connection with the Evidence given by him before the Commission.

A.—NOTES OF EVIDENCE.

APPOINTMENT.

Was appointed Inspector and Adviser to the Congested Districts Board in Industrial matters in February, 1897.

In February, 1898, gave up business partnership to devote time to organising Technical and Industrial Classes.

Previous to 1897 from time to time reported on various Industrial projects. Amongst these were reports on Fuxford Woollen Mills, various schemes for improving Donegal Homespuns, such as the introduction of improved looms; schemes of weaving instruction, and the grading and measuring of homespuns at Carrick and Ardara, county Donegal.

BOARD'S SYSTEM OF INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.

The procedure of the Board with regard to Technical and Industrial Classes has been to rent a classroom in some suitable district with the object of giving instruction. In many districts no suitable room can be secured, and in such cases the difficulty is generally overcome by repairing some old building, which often involves throwing two rooms into one, and such alterations and repairs as putting down a floor, the provision of a new roof with skylights, and putting in new windows and doors. In some few cases where no suitable building was obtainable, the Board have built a classroom for the purposes of instruction.

The Board pay the salary of the teacher, provide furniture, and defray the cost of rent, fire, and light.

The teacher gives instruction and sends off the work. All the work done at the Board's classes is piecework. Under no circumstances does the Board purchase any of the work. Orders are sent to the teacher from the Irish Lace Depot or other wholesale houses, such as the Hibernian Lace Company, and wholesale Belfast firms, all of which pay prompt cash for the work.

It has been found that the supply of superior qualities of lace has tended to produce an increased demand. Ten years since there was neither the demand nor the supply of lace which exists at present. The turnover of the Irish Lace Depot, for instance, has increased from £8,000 per year, ten years since, to £34,000 last year, and besides the Lace Depot there are now a considerable number of wholesale purchasers who do a large trade.

For a number of years the Irish Lace Depot, started by Lady Aberdeen, took the bulk of the work produced. The Board's classes, however, take orders from any wholesale buyers, the only instructions to teachers being that the patterns of one firm are not to be sold to another. In practice it generally follows that the bulk of the produce of any one class goes to one firm, which usually keeps the class constantly employed.

There were last year fifty-three classes established by the Board, in various parts of the congested districts, engaged in the production of lace and embroidery, from which the total earnings paid to workers amounted to £21,880. The laces produced were crochet, guipure, appliqué, Lincolncroft, needlepoint, and rennaissance lace. The latter is sold under the name of Connaught Curtains.

During the past eight years workers have been kept practically fully employed. There have been short periods when the demand fluctuated and orders were scarce, but all round there were many more occasions on which workers were being strongly pressed for delivery than occasions on which work was scarce. As illustrating the difficulty of providing employment for the people in some congested districts, the north-west district of Mayo, in the neighbourhood of Belmullet, may be referred to. In 1897 I was asked to visit this district, and to report on the possibility of starting any description of home industry there. Many places in this district are over forty miles from a railway station, and it was recognised that the Board would have a most difficult and expensive task in establishing home industries there, inasmuch as the wages to be earned in all home industries are low, that people unaccustomed to work of this sort would not be very keen on work, and that the turnover and wages would be at first extremely small. In such a district private enterprise can effect little or nothing, where every worker has to be trained, and carriage paid competition out of the question. The people in such districts will want to see wages in an industry before they are half trained, and would despair of earning anything commensurate with their trouble, as it takes a long time to acquire sufficient dexterity to work quickly and well. I suggested that workers might be paid a small amount weekly at first, and that something should be produced which could be sent by parcels post, and that while it would be foolish for anyone to try to establish industries in this district as a means of making money, that time and patience would effect much in the end. The Board shortly afterwards opened a Crochet Class at Pullathomas, and the industry has gradually extended.

SPREAD OF THE INDUSTRY.

The wages paid to workers last year at Pullathomas came to £1,750, and there are now eight such classes in the North Mayo district. Some have been a considerable time in operation, and others have been comparatively recently opened. These eight classes are situated in seven Electoral Divisions, namely, Belmullet, Benger, Rathliff, Knocknashower, Mings, Knockaduff, and Glenamoy. They cover an area of 72,495 acres, the Poor Law Valuation being £4,830, and the population 7,945. The earnings of the eight classes situated in these Electoral Divisions last year amounted to £4,158 8s. 10d.

MORAL EFFECT OF EMPLOYMENT.

A large proportion of the Board's classes are situated in one-of-the-way districts, where there are few evilising influences. The teachers have instruction to make the people come clean and tidy to the class, and the classes have had a very considerable influence both on the people and on their homes, improving the standard of living and home comfort. In many districts a considerable increase in the number of cattle has been due to the earnings of the classes, and very frequently the workers lodge a considerable portion of their earnings in the Post Office Savings Bank.

HINDERANCES TO INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

The Industrial Classes of the Board are, however, in many districts of less value than they should be. In some districts the emigration of workers when trained leaves the Board little to show for a considerable expenditure, and is a source of great disappointment to the teachers. There is also frequently great apathy on the part of the people, and it is difficult to arouse an interest in a new industry. In a great part of the congested districts there is a very large percentage of illiterates, and numbers of the workers have little or no education. Steady and punctual attendance at school should be insisted upon by the local authorities, as, even apart from the education required, steady and punctual attendance at school, and the ingrained habit of doing something practically every day, would materially contribute to lead up to industrial developments later on. One of the greatest difficulties of the Board's classes is the unpunctuality and irregular attendance of the workers.

Instruction in drawing is very much required in order that workers may be able to adapt themselves quickly to the new designs which are required in order to command the market. These classes where the pupils are quick to adopt new designs have hitherto been certain of steady employment. Future developments depend largely on readiness to follow the requirements of the market, and this, again, has to do with a higher standard of education and early instruction in drawing.

At several classes instruction in drawing has been given to the pupils on one day in each week with the best results, and in some instances the Board have sent specially bright pupils for a course of instruction in drawing at the Metropolitan Schools of Art at Cork and Dublin.

MACHINE-KNITTING CLASSES.

The extensive hand-knitting industry which formerly employed a considerable number of people in Donegal has almost disappeared under the competition of machine knitting. The Board have given instruction in the use of knitting machines at numerous centres, and machine-knitting is now coming into very general use. The knitting machines are supplied by the Board to workers at a cost price of about £5 5s. each, on solvent security, and while the rate of pay formerly obtained for hand-knitting had gone down as low as 2s. per dozen pairs, workers can now earn 8s. per week in their own homes.

HOMESPUN WEAVING INSTRUCTION.

Numerous Classes for giving instruction in weaving have been held in various parts of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, Kerry and Cork, and although the production of homespun, in competition with machine-made goods, is not a very remunerative occupation, it is still a very considerable industry in South Donegal, where the people card, spin, and weave the wool of their own sheep, and the production is sold at the monthly fairs of Carrick and Ardara and in the open market.

Industrial Loans for improved looms and spinning wheels are given by the Board on proper security. In South Donegal the annual turnover in homespun is something like £11,000 per year. At the monthly fairs of Ardara and Carrick, County Donegal, the Board measure the webs, and up to quite recently graded and ticketed each web according to quality.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY CLASSES.

The Congested Districts Board, as in the case of the Lanes and Industrial Classes, was the first Board in Ireland to inaugurate a regular system of itinerant Domestic Economy Instruction. These classes last for a minimum of four months at each centre.

Six trained and certified teachers are employed by the Board, who give instruction in Cookery, Laundry, and Domestic Economy. The teachers itinerate from one district to another, and when a suitable building can be found, and a proper attendance secured of from 20 to 25 pupils in the forenoon, and a smaller number of other pupils in the afternoon, a four months' course of instruction is given. These classes are very popular and have been found to be of great service. They are calculated to improve the home surroundings of the people, and instruction is given how to make nutritious food from inexpensive materials. Girls trained at these classes can easily get situations in this country as domestic servants, while if they emigrate, as a number of them do, they are much better fitted for entering domestic service, and the Board's certificate, given at the expiration of the four months' course, has a recognised value. Six teachers are now employed upon this work. Ninety full courses of instruction have been given, and 4,800 pupils have been under instruction.

MANUAL INSTRUCTION CLASSES.

The Board also employ itinerant Manual Instructors. Some twenty-six courses of instruction have been given in the use of carpenter's tools, at various places. The pupils are given such practical instruction as will enable them to make such useful articles as doors, gates, window frames, wheelbarrows, and other household requirements. Loans are given to the pupils for a pound's worth of useful tools, which can be paid off by easy instalments.

EMPLOYMENT FOR MEN.

It is to be regretted that while efforts to provide employment for female workers are proving fairly successful, the way in which the population is usually scattered in the congested districts renders it difficult to suggest centres of employment which would suit the establishment of large factories employing both men and women. The home industries such as lacemaking, embroidery, home-spuns, machine-knitting, &c., appear at present to be better suited to the requirements of the people and to the training of an industrial population than any system of providing employment in factories involving large capital expenditure. As regards any extensive scheme for employing men in the congested districts, the absence of coal and iron, and the prevalence of high freight and transport charges, make the problem extremely difficult. Apart from increased village of the land under the stimulating influence of peasant proprietorship, it is difficult to say how increased employment can be obtained for men except in connection with fishing, and possibly quarrying to a limited extent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In addition to the various Industrial and Technical Classes carried on by the Board since 1895, financial assistance was given at the inception of the Board's work to the Foxford Woollen Mills and Ballaghaderreen Hosiery Industry.

Messrs. A. Morton & Co., Darnley, Ayrshire, were induced by the Board to commence what was a new industry in Ireland, namely, the making of hand-tufted carpets in Donegal. There are now four factories at work on these carpets at Killybegs, Kilone, Crolly, and Annagry, and these factories afford a very considerable amount of employment in the districts where they are situated.

Tables will be handed in showing how local taxation presses heavily on the poorer districts in the West as contrasted with better off parts of Ireland—also maps indicating those districts in which technical and industrial instruction has been given.

APPENDIX VII. B.—STATEMENT showing the Rates struck in certain Congested Districts for five years 1900-1, 1904-5, as compared with some Non-Congested Districts.

UNION.	Rates struck.										Valuation per head of Population.	Amount produced by levying a rate of 1 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
	Year 1900-1.		Year 1901-2.		Year 1902-3.		Year 1903-4.		Year 1904-5.			
	Land.	Other hereditaments.	Land.	Other hereditaments.	Land.	Other hereditaments.	Land.	Other hereditaments.	Land.	Other hereditaments.		
Sarna.	2 2	2 4	0 11	2 2	1 8	2 10	1 11	2 4	1 11	2 4	2 0 5	6
Bokeidge.	2 2	2 4	1 11	2 2	2 8	2 9	1 2	2 0	1 2	2 11	2 25 1	205
Glenzie.	5 1	7 21	2 8	2 4	4 2	7 4	4 5	7 5	4 10	7 3	2 22 10	467
Donnellist.	8 2	12 10	2 2	2 2	2 3	4 7	2 0	2 10	2 0	2 7	2 19 4	92
Clifton.	2 0	2 9	2 11	2 2	2 5	2 5	2 10	2 7	2 10	2 7	2 10 2	70
Oughlins.	2 2	2 4	2 4	2 11	2 10	2 2	2 10	2 1	2 1	2 2	2 17 7	27
Cushinstown.	4 0	2 10	2 10	2 7	4 2	2 11	4 2	7 0	4 0	7 2	1 2 2	212

C.—TABLE taken from the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation, illustrating the irregularity between certain Unions as regards Grants-in-Aid.

Union.	Population in 1911.	Rateable Value (1901) per £100 (1901).	Expenditure* (1900) per £100 (1901).	Present Grants-in-Aid of Union Charges, 1910-1911.					Rate in the £ for Union Charges on Non-hereditaments other than Agricultural Land for the Year 1910-1911.
				Agricultural Grants-in-Aid of Union Charges.	Death Duty Grants-in-Aid of Union Charges.	Other Grants from the Local Taxation Account.	Total Present Grants.		
							Amount.	Per £100 (1911).	
Glenzie (Donnellist).	34,220	0 12 0	2 2	1,800	205	450	2,455	1 2	2 4
Oughlins (Clifton).	21,905	0 17 0	2 12	950	464	307	1,721	1 0	2 0
Bokeidge (Glenzie).	40,701	0 17 5	2 1	2,100	224	200	2,524	1 2	2 10
Clifton (Glenzie).	20,580	0 16 2	2 9	1,020	200	120	1,340	1 12	2 10
Cushinstown (Clifton).	21,400	1 0 0	2 2	710	270	210	1,190	2 1	2 2
Cushinstown (Glenzie).	21,400	1 2 0	4 0	1,200	270	210	1,680	1 10	2 2
Bokeidge (Glenzie and Donnellist).	200,000	2 4 0	2 0	945	2,000	1,400	4,345	2 0	2 2
Sarna (Donnellist).	12,000	2 10 0	10 10	2,000	204	200	2,404	2 0	2 2
Bokeidge (Glenzie and Clifton).	20,100	4 14 0	10 2	2,100	1,020	200	3,320	2 0	2 2
Glenzie (Donnellist).	21,900	2 2 0	10 7	2,000	270	200	2,470	2 12	2 2
Bokeidge (Glenzie).	40,701	2 14 0	7 2	2,100	400	200	2,700	2 0	2 0
Bokeidge (Glenzie and Donnellist).	24,500	7 5 0	10 2	2,100	200	400	2,700	2 0	2 0
Bokeidge (Donnellist).	2,221	10 5 0	11 2	2,000	204	200	2,404	2 2	2 11

* Expenditure means gross total expenditure of Guardians except expenditure out of Loans and less Local Receipts ("Union Fund").
 † Estimated to the middle of 1911.

APPENDIX IV.

APPENDIX IV.

DOCUMENTS put in by PROFESSOR J. R. CAMPBELL in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

A.—MEMORANDUM ON AGRICULTURAL WORK OF DEPARTMENT.

The constitution of the Department has already been fully explained to the Commission by the Vice-President. The Agricultural Branch of the Department is concerned with the administration of those functions which have for their object the aiding, improving, and developing of agriculture in accordance with the powers and responsibilities given to the Department by the Act creating it.

The Department consider it desirable—having regard to the terms of reference—that the evidence relating to agriculture should comprise a statement describing:—

- I. Agricultural work applicable to the whole country;
- II. Agricultural work applicable to counties partly congested; and
- III. The special needs of congested areas.

I.

Agricultural Work applicable to the whole Country.

(This part is substantially a connected statement of the evidence in regard to agriculture given before the *Committee of Enquiry into the work of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction*. It describes the Department's system of administration through local authorities; the nature of their agricultural schemes, whether administered through the local authorities or from the central offices; and the progress of the work. From this statement the members of the Commission will be able to form an opinion how far the Department's general system of administration and their schemes are applicable to congested areas.)

INITIAL PROCEDURE.

The Agricultural Branch of the Department was started in the autumn of 1900. The first duty of the staff was that of attending meetings of County Councils, explaining to them the provisions of the Act, the steps to be taken to put it into operation; obtaining and considering suggestions both in private and in public as to what the Department should do for agricultural development; and making acquaintance with the people whom the Act was intended to benefit. Advantage was taken of these visits to study the peculiarities of Irish agriculture in respect of the size of the holdings, the farm buildings, the tillage of the land, the crops grown, the class of stock raised, and the condition of dairying, horticulture, and poultry-keeping. regard was had also to the social position of the farmer himself, his business methods, capital, general and technical education, and to some extent his aspirations.

CONCLUSIONS ARRIVED AT.

The conclusions arrived at after this preliminary study of the conditions under which the Department had to work may be summarized as follows:

- (1) That the most important work which the Department had to perform was that of laying the foundation of a permanent system of agricultural education. The immediate introduction of a system of agricultural education such as exists in other countries was seen to be impracticable, as in the first instance the conditions of agriculture in Ireland and the circumstances of the farmers differed from those of most other countries, particularly with respect to the size of the farms, the ability of the farmer to pay for, the desire of most young men to leave the land, the desire for an agricultural education, and the backwardness of tillage in some districts;

while, in the second place, no provision had been made in Ireland for the training of teachers.

- (2.) That in the application of the Department's Endowment to and in the development of agriculture it was desirable as far as practicable to work through the local authorities. It was further considered desirable to commence with a subject in which everybody could take part, and which everybody understood—namely, the improvement of live stock.

- (3.) That a large number of the proposed projects on which the country desired the Department to embark would in the first instance have to be undertaken by the Department's officers themselves, afterwards gradually transferring the work and the funds necessary for carrying it on to the local authorities.

DIVISION OF WORK.

The work of the Agricultural Branch may be divided into

- (a) That which is administered jointly by the local authorities and the Department, and
- (b) That which is administered by the Department directly from the central offices.

Generally speaking, when the work is such that the country can be made the unit for the purposes of administration, and particularly where such an arrangement would enable each district to receive benefits proportionate to its contribution, the administration of the scheme is delegated to the local authority: such, for example, is the procedure adopted with schemes for encouraging improvement in live stock and schemes of itinerant instruction in various branches of agriculture. On the other hand, work for which the country cannot be conveniently made the unit, and which does not apply equally to the whole country, as administered directly from the Department's offices, such, for example, as the investigation of special outbreaks of diseases of stock, the encouragement of improvement in the management of creameries, and a variety of other work and investigations to which reference will be made subsequently.

FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

The local authorities are the County Councils, of which there are 33. Each Council, however, for the purposes of the Department's work, appoints a Committee of Agriculture composed partly of members of the Council, and partly of other persons. To this Committee the Council usually delegates full powers, subject to the approval of the Department, for the administration of the funds placed at its disposal. The County Council alone can raise a rate for the purposes of the Act. In some cases this rate is 1d. in the pound, in others ½d. The smallest amount estimated as being raised by a county this year is £538 (½d. rate in County Waterford), and the highest £2,115 (½d. rate in County Cork). The total amount raised over Ireland for the current year is £28,048, and the total sum allocated by County Committees out of the rates for agricultural schemes is £31,923, or an average of nearly £1,000 per county. The amount raised by the county rate is usually transferred by the County Council to the County Committee to be applied by them, subject to the approval of the Department, partly to schemes of agriculture and partly to schemes of technical instruction. In a few cases the amount to be spent on agriculture and on technical instruction respectively is specified by the County Council. In the majority of cases, however, it is left to the County Committee to decide the proportions.

APPENDIX IV.

RELATIONS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

In the first year 31 out of 33 County Councils raised a rate and appointed Committees for the purposes of the Act. Every year since all the 33 Councils have done so. The relations between the Department and these Committees are very satisfactory indeed. In the first years, when the procedure was not well understood, there were administrative difficulties and delays; but all these have been largely, if not altogether, overcome, and an excellent understanding has for some years existed between the leading members of the Committees and the officers of the Department, who are constantly in conference, either at the local meetings or at the office of the Department, to discuss the details of and the arrangements for carrying out the work. Individuals have felt aggrieved owing to the action of the Committee itself, or of the Department, but this is inevitable where public funds are distributed among farmers to encourage improvement in their methods. So far as is in their power the Department have fairly met the wishes of the Committees. Not only are the Committees in constant communication with the central office, but each Committee is invited by the Department to submit its views on the working of the schemes before the commencement of each agricultural year. Suggestions made by County Committees have not only been considered, but, in the great majority of cases, have been adopted. If a County Committee considers itself aggrieved by some action of the Department, the Committee can have their grievance ventilated through the Council of Agriculture, a body appointed specially for this purpose, and to whom the Department must answer if it ignores public opinion.

The amount of work done and money expended by the County Committees has each year steadily increased, and the quality of the work also has improved and is improving. With the exceptions already noted, every County Council has annually raised a rate and appointed its Committees, who have carried on successfully one or more of the schemes. These schemes up to the present comprise improvement in the breeds of cattle, horses, asses, and swine; itinerant instruction in agricultural subjects; prizes for cottages and farms; subsidies to live stock shows; field experiments and demonstrations with manures and seeds; systematic instruction in winter schools of agriculture; instruction in poultry-keeping, including improvement in the breeds of fowl, and the fattening and marketing of poultry; instruction in horticulture, including the purchase and distribution of trees at cost price; instruction in bee-keeping, and instruction in home butter-making. Copies of these schemes for 1907 can be supplied to the Commission if required.

WORK ADMINISTERED JOINTLY BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE DEPARTMENT.

A YEAR'S WORK.

The agricultural year commences in autumn. Early in summer—in June usually—the Department circularises all the County Committees, inviting their views on the work of the previous year. The views of the Department's inspectors who have been in touch with the leading members and with the officers of the Committees are also obtained. These suggestions are then considered by the Department, and where there are any national interests to safeguard and where expert advice is helpful advisory committees of experts are called in to assist the Department in their deliberations. The advisory committees are those dealing with horses, cattle and swine, fowl, tobacco, and forestry. The views of the County Committees are laid before these committees, and an outline programme is then prepared. Unless in very special cases all details are left for each local authority to settle as it sees fit.

Early in August these outline schemes are explained to, and laid before, the Agricultural Board, with a statement of the amount of money which it is estimated will be required from the Department's funds (1) to meet the cost of central administration, and (2) to meet the Department's contribution to the

funds of the County Committees. When the necessary funds have been voted by the Agricultural Board a conference at the Department's office of secretaries of County Committees has usually been held to discuss any new provision in the scheme, and to arrange dates for meetings of the Committees which are attended by the Department's inspectors for the purpose of assisting in arranging details of the programme and finances for the ensuing agricultural year. As soon as each County Committee has decided on the schemes which it proposes to put into operation, the secretary notifies the Department, who then institute their approval as well as the maximum of their contribution for the year. Where the County Committee and its secretary are alive to the interests of the county, the work is usually in full swing by October, except, of course, such sections of it as depend on the seasons. The appointment of local or district sub-committees who see that the district they represent takes full advantage of the schemes, is a most important factor in ensuring the success of the work. The Department have urged the appointment of such sub-committees to assist the statutory committees, and hope that still more use will be made of them in future years.

County Committees of Agriculture meet, as a rule, once a month. As already stated, a representative of the Department always attends the first meeting, and subsequent ones as often as possible. Two sets of minutes of proceedings at these meetings are forwarded to the Department—one general and one financial. The general minutes deal with correspondence with the Department, the work of the Committee for the past and ensuing month, and resolutions involving changes in or fresh expenditure under the schemes for which the approval of the Department is sought. The financial minutes contain a statement of payments ordered to be made, and are accompanied by the actual accounts. When the Department have examined and satisfied themselves as to the correctness of these accounts they signify this fact to the secretary of the Committee, and forward their proportion of the cost to the local treasurer.

DEPARTMENT'S CONTRIBUTION IN RESPECT OF LOCAL EXPENDITURE.

In the early years the Department recouped County Committees one-half the cost of each piece of work, except in the case of a number of the poorer counties, whose proportion was increased to five-eighths. At present and for the last three years the Department's contribution has been three-fifths of the actual cost of each scheme undertaken in the poorer counties, and five-eighths in all other counties. It should be borne in mind that these payments do not represent the whole of the Department's contribution towards the cost of the work done in connection with county schemes. For example, in connection with the live stock schemes, to be described later on, the Department pay the whole of the fees and expenses of the judges and veterinary surgeons who act at the local meat shows (of which there are over 200 held annually), as well as the fees and expenses of the judges in connection with the award of prizes for good farming and well-kept cottages. The Department also pay the whole salary of itinerant instructors in agriculture, the cost of pioneer lectures, and of special investigations and inquiries.

The question of adjusting the expenditure of the Department's Endowment so that each county will receive its fair proportion is one which has received a great deal of consideration. The necessity for limiting the amount of the Department's contribution and the funds of County Committees is only now beginning to be felt, since owing to the simultaneous action of the thirty-three counties it has not been possible for any one Committee to advantageously spend much more than what might be regarded as its normal income from the rates and from the Department. For example, nearly every county has been ready to employ the services of an agricultural instructor, but owing to the sudden demand for such officers and the fact that they have not been available up to the present, several Committees have been unable to undertake expenditure under this head. Any unexpended balance of the rate has remained in the hands of the Committees; while the unexpended

balance of the Department's Endowment has been retained and invested for the purposes of erecting and equipping agricultural institutions.

How it may be convenient to explain how votes passed by the Agricultural Board for County Committee schemes are dealt with. The live stock schemes, the only schemes on which all the Committees are spending funds, and in connection with which several Committees are spending their manure, may be used to illustrate the point. The vote for live stock improvement is made annually in August, and amounts to the sum which the Department estimate may be usefully spent on this form of agricultural improvement. The sum voted is a round figure, and is usually about £15,000 per annum. The division is made by the Department on the basis of the valuation of the county, as well as on the basis of the number of live stock in the county. The mean of these two sums is taken, and with this division in their hands the inspectors of the Department meet the County Committees in September, when these bodies make up their finances for the agricultural year. The inspector is instructed to keep each Committee as near as possible to its share of the vote, but he is also instructed that he is not to jeopardise the schemes by insisting on the Committees accepting their exact proportion. The Department know well that the sum voted is often more than can actually be spent by the Committees owing to the collective demand of so many bodies on the available number of high-class sites. Nevertheless, several County Committees, desiring to get as much out of the Department as possible, have insisted upon having a larger share set aside than they are entitled to. If this excess is not unobtainable the Department sanction the allocation. It has only been in recent years that some of the counties were able to spend it all. Each County Committee therefore has at its disposal what is known as a "joint fund," i.e., a sum made up of its rate relief for the purpose of the Act and the Department's grant. The financial minutes sent to the Department after each meeting of the County Committee show all payments made out of the "joint fund." The amount of the Department's contribution (three-fifths or five-sixths, as the case may be), is then determined and forwarded to the Committee. In cases where a Committee is short of funds the Department usually make an advance before its financial minutes are submitted to enable urgent claims to be paid. The sums sanctioned for the 1906-7 schemes are set forth in the accompanying table. The aggregate amounts to over £61,000. It will be seen therefore that the expenditure of at least half the Department's Agricultural Endowment is now in the hands of the local authorities.

Supervision of the details of this expenditure cannot be undertaken by the Agricultural Board. It therefore rests with the Department to discharge this duty. If they use their control unreasonably, they will very soon be brought to task either by the Board, who are themselves members of County Committees, and to whom the local representatives would complain if they were being improperly treated as regards funds, or by the Council of Agriculture.

In the case of the improvement of live stock, on which every County Committee has spent money, it was foreseen from the outset that it would be quite impossible for the committees to obtain a sufficient number of high-class sites for their purposes until the schemes had had the effect of increasing the number of breeders of the class of stock required. The amount spent by County Committees has steadily increased in every section of the work, and we have now arrived at a stage when, owing to the rapid depletion of the Department's savings, a limit will have to be put to the expansion of certain schemes, particularly in those counties where most progress has been made.

The Agricultural Board, recognising the difficulties which confronted the Department in dividing their funds among counties, have not hitherto insisted on a very exact division of moneys proportionately to valuation or on any other basis. They have been satisfied so long as the estimates were not exceeded, and so long as no County Committee received funds greatly in excess of its share of the vote. The Board have already gone into the question of expenditure by provinces, and the question of expenditure by counties is now engaging their attention.

In the Department's office is kept, of course, a statement of the amount of the cheques sent to each County Committee, but these sums do not represent, as already pointed out, the whole contribution of the Department to the county. County Committees have now a great deal of power in respect of the manner in which they spend their own and the Department's funds. The following shows the amount of the "Joint Fund" expended by all the County Committees during six years:—

Year.	Amount of "Joint Fund."		
	£	s.	d.
1900-1,	17,106	15	0
1901-2,	35,709	16	10
1902-3,	39,838	5	10
1903-4,	53,377	12	4
1904-5,	59,821	15	5
1905-6,	64,432	16	8
1906-7,	80,227	0	0

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Of all the agricultural problems which the Department have had to solve, that of gradually leading Irish farmers to appreciate an education for their sons, who are to succeed them, has been the most difficult, and has received the most attention. It did not require a prolonged study of the conditions of agriculture in Ireland to show that there is good reason why it would be impracticable to at once introduce methods which have proved successful in other countries. It is unnecessary to describe the provision made in Ireland for agricultural education before the creation of the Department of Agriculture. Suffice it to say that up to that time such education was provided by the Commissioners of National Education. At one time agricultural education was given at a large number of public institutions, and in National schools. At the time of the formation of the Department, for one reason or another, all these institutions had been abandoned, with the exception of the Albert Training Institute, Glasnevin, and the Munster Institute, Cork. Instruction had also been given in thirty-eight National schools by national teachers who had been trained at the Albert Institution, and who usually worked a farm in connection with the school. The Albert Institution and the Munster Institute were handed over to the Department, who were, however, precluded from giving agricultural instruction in National schools. The Commissioners had ceased to teach agriculture in these schools, and all, therefore, that remained of their agricultural operations were the two institutions referred to above. At each of these there were two courses in the year, one for female and one for male students; hence the equipment was designed for teaching alternate courses of practical agriculture to young men and dairy work and domestic economy to girls. The scientific instruction at Glasnevin took the form of a number of lectures on Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, and Veterinary Science by specialists from the city who were not, however, agriculturists. There were no laboratories, and therefore no practical instruction in the sciences underlying agriculture. The course extended over a period of about six months. Attention is directed to these facts, as it will enable the Commission to understand the difficulty caused by the want of trained Irishmen to enable the Department to immediately establish and staff agricultural institutions.

Another factor which has to be taken in consideration in devising a system of agricultural education is the fact that in Ireland there is an extraordinary desire on the part of young men of the country to escape from farm life. Their education is all directed towards fitting them for occupations of a wholly different character, and the brightest of the family receives an education often at the expense of the son who is to succeed the father. The occupier of the land himself is not always a man of education, nor can he be expected to appreciate the advantages of education except as a means of escaping from the land. To induce him, therefore, to make some sacrifice to give the son who is to succeed him in the holding a technical education suitable to his calling, it is necessary first of all to convince him of its advantages. It is impracticable to bring the farmer himself to school, and therefore the only way he can be brought into contact with the application of science in agriculture is by sending young instructors

* Amount sanctioned, for detail see table, pages 192 and 193.

APPENDIX IV.

to give lectures in the evenings; to visit holdings during the day and discuss privately with the occupiers the various problems which confront them in their practice. Such an officer, if he is armed with a thorough knowledge of his business, both scientific and practical, rarely fails to convince a farmer of the fact that he would have been more successful had he received an agricultural education, and that it is to his son's advantage that he should be given one. It is scarcely necessary to state that such work, however, is slow, and even in the most progressive countries requires patience and determined perseverance. It is a universal experience that the more highly educated, capable and progressive the farmer, the more he appreciates technical education.

With the agriculturists of Ireland in a backward condition, where the smallest acre feasible the land, where the holdings are often too small to be economically managed, where the farmers' financial resources are very limited, where a system of agricultural credit, often of the worst possible description, exists, and where the people have been taught that improvement of their land may mean an increase in rent, the Commission will realize that the Department had very real difficulties to face.

In this connection one further aspect of the case may be given. There are in Ireland nearly half a million holdings, of which a quarter of a million may be taken as under twenty statute acres in extent. The owners of such holdings are, of course, quite unable to pay anything like the cost of a special education; all that can be expected of them is that they should contribute a small fraction of it. With these considerations before them, the policy of the Department has been—

(1) To provide at one central institution the highest form of technical education for the training of men who are to become teachers and specialists in agriculture. This has been done at the Royal College of Science in connection with the farm and college at Glasnevin.

(2) To provide at least one high-class agricultural college which would form a stepping-stone to men desirous of entering the Royal College of Science, as well as men, the sons of well-to-do farmers, who wish for an education to enable them to manage their own farms, and men who desire to become country managers, or who wish to have a special training to fit them as horticultural or poultry experts, stewards, land agents, or other occupations in connection with agriculture. This has been done at the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin.

(3) To provide provincial institutions at which young men who can be spared from the farm for one year can be taken in as apprentices, taught agriculture, both practical and technical, at a fee proportionate to their means. This work, which had to be delayed until teachers were trained, is now in progress at three such institutions, and the provision of others is in contemplation.

(4) To provide winter schools of agriculture where the sons of farmers could obtain technical training at small expense during the winter months, when they can best be spared from farm work. Twenty-eight such schools were started last winter in twelve counties whose progress had previously been made with itinerant instruction.

(5) To provide one central higher institution for the training of women in the domestic economy of the farmhouse, and in work which falls to the lot of women to perform in connection with the farmyard, as, for example, dairying and poultry-keeping. This provision has been made at the Munster Institute, Cork.

(6) To provide for young women education in domestic economy and farmyard lore at residential and day schools. This has been done at a number of institutions, while the equipment of others is under consideration.

(7) To provide in each county, by a system of itinerant instruction in agriculture, horticulture, dairying, poultry-keeping, and bee-keeping, instruction and advice for farmers and their wives, sons and daughters, who cannot avail themselves of other means of acquiring information.

Thus the Department have laid the basis of a graded system of agricultural education by means of which the youth who is inspired by the work of the itinerant instructor may be able to obtain education in the local winter school of agriculture, from

which he may graduate to the provincial agricultural school, thence to the Albert Agricultural College, or the Royal College of Science, according to his circumstances and his education, and equip himself in the highest offices in connection with agriculture which the country has to bestow.

One important aspect of the question should be mentioned in this connection, viz., that the education of the agricultural student must be accelerated when the influence of the teaching of practical science in the secondary schools provided under the Technical Instruction Scheme comes to be more and more felt. It may be taken for granted that the boy who has had a training in practical science in the secondary school will benefit more by his attendance at the lectures and demonstrations of the agricultural instructor, at the classes in the winter schools, and at the provincial institutions, than the boy who goes to these without this preliminary training.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE.

As already indicated, the first duty of the Assistant Secretary on joining the Department, in August, 1905, was to study the state of agriculture in Ireland. His first official recommendation was that a Faculty of Agriculture should be established in the Royal College of Science in Dublin, and that scholarships should be provided to encourage young Irishmen to study there, and so fit them for work in connection with the Department's schemes. His recommendations to the Department under this head coincided with the views of the Vice-President and the Secretary. No time was lost in establishing the Faculty. In October of the same year nine young men, all well acquainted with the practice of agriculture, were enrolled. Every year since then a fresh number of scholarships has been offered to the same class of student. Thirty-four men have been so trained, twenty-nine of whom are now employed on the Department's programme, and twenty-nine holders of agricultural scholarships are at present in the College. It is hoped that all these men, with others to be trained in subsequent years, will do useful service to the country in the cause of agricultural education. These scholarships are awarded on the result of an examination which comprises English and another language, mathematics, and practical agriculture. The scholarship entitles the holder to free education and a maintenance allowance of £12 per week while in attendance at the College. The application for these scholarships was not so first as that could be desired. It has taken a few years for the youth of the country to realise their opportunities, and the opening which the Department has created for students of agriculture. At first applications were received from clerks, unsuccessful candidates for the Civil Service, students who failed to pass various professional examinations, e.g., Church, Law, Medicine, and such like. As, however, the programme of the Department is becoming better understood, and the influence of the winter and provincial schools of agriculture is being felt, a much better class of candidate is coming forward year by year.

The course at the Royal College extends over three years—the session lasting from October to June. In the first year the subjects studied are chemistry, physics, mathematics, drawing; second year, botany, zoology, geology, with their application to agriculture; surveying and veterinary hygiene; third year, agriculture, agricultural chemistry, agricultural bacteriology, and engineering. Owing to the lack of proper accommodation, and pending the completion of the new buildings now in course of erection, part of the course is given at the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin.

The Department do not consider a three years' course sufficient training for the purposes of higher agricultural education, and it is contemplated to extend it to four years. Those who have already been trained have received additional instruction by special courses from time to time, and some of them have been sent to the Continent to study the conditions of agriculture and agricultural education prevailing there. It will thus be seen that the Department place a high estimate on the importance of a thorough training. They have not so far accepted

any qualifications as sufficient, except their own, without a special examination or a record of work done.

The following shows the number of students trained and in training in the Agricultural Faculty of the College:—

Number of students trained since 1900, ...	34
Number at present in training—1st year, ...	10
(1906-7 session.) 2nd year, ...	7
3rd year, ...	12
—	29

ALBERT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GLASHOVIN.

At the time this institution was taken over two courses of instruction were given annually, one for women in dairying and domestic economy, and one in agriculture for men. The drawbacks to such an arrangement are obvious. The staff and equipment had to be duplicated, and a six months' course in agriculture is obviously too short for a high-class College. The Department recognising the need for at least one institution at which young men could receive a less expensive and less exhaustive course than that given at the Royal College of Science, decided to equip the Glashovin Institution partly as a preparatory school for the Royal College, and partly to meet the demands of those who are prepared to pay a fair proportion of the cost of their education, and who desire to fit themselves for an agricultural career.

The buildings, which had been erected about the year 1854, were almost worn out, and were not equipped in accordance with modern ideas. A scheme for their reconstruction and re-organisation on the lines indicated was submitted to the Agricultural Board, who voted funds for the necessary alterations.

The farm consists of 170 acres, 112 acres of which are cultivated on an eight-course rotation with crops suitable to Ireland; the remainder is in pasture, on which are kept a herd of dairy cows and a flock of sheep. The farm is famous for its breed of large Yorkshire pigs, and there has recently been added a small herd of valuable pure-bred shorthorn cattle. The produce of both classes of stock are sold or given out on loan to breeders of pedigree stock.

The course now extends throughout the year, during which the students are taught English, mathematics, surveying, agricultural chemistry, agricultural botany, agriculture both in the field and in the class-room, horticulture, butter-making, poultry-keeping, bee-keeping, and manual instruction in woodwork. The students devote half their time to indoor and half to outdoor studies. Instruction by a resident staff in well-equipped laboratories, now takes the place of the former system of lectures by visiting masters.

Twenty-five free scholarships, entitling the holders to maintenance and education, are offered per annum. Farmers' sons pay £25 and others £50 per annum. At the opening of the present session (1906-7) there were enrolled:—

Holders of free places, ...	25
Students at £25 fee, ...	9
Students at £50 fee, ...	1
Teaching students, ...	1
Attending Royal College of Science, ...	15
—	51

The farm and institution, however, serve purposes other than those already mentioned. The gardens are employed for the training of young men, the best of whom eventually become itinerant instructors in horticulture under the local authorities. These are admitted as apprentices, and are selected on the result of an examination, due regard being had to their previous knowledge of practical gardening; they do the work of the garden and orchards, and receive free instruction in the College. They are paid at the rate of from 12s. to 25s. per week, and reside outside. There are at present ten horticultural students in training. The poultry department serves as a centre for the breeding and distribution of pure-bred fowl in connection with the county schemes, and is being utilised for the grading up of egg-laying strains by the keeping of a register of eggs of individual birds. The farm also serves as a station where high-class sires

are housed pending their distribution to the backward counties which require special assistance from the Department.

Some alterations still require to be made in the farm buildings to fit them for the new conditions. When these have been carried out the buildings, staff, equipment, and programme at the Albert Agricultural College will compare favourably with anything of their kind in Europe.

AGRICULTURAL STATIONS.

The Albert Agricultural College is not, however, the type of institution which the Department would wish to see multiplied in Ireland. It is clear that one such place is necessary, but one should be sufficient for the requirements of the country. There is, however, room in Ireland for a type of agricultural institution where instruction less technical and more practical can be given. This need the Department have recognised, and provision has already been made for three such institutions—one at Athlery, County Galway; one at Ballyhaiss, County Carraig; and one at Glanabally, County Cork. As soon as these are properly equipped and staffed and the available accommodation is taken up, and qualified teachers become available, the intention is to start similar establishments elsewhere so far as funds will permit.

Admission to these institutions is confined to young men who are able to show the Department that they are to become farmers in Ireland, and that they have an immediate or early prospect of obtaining a holding.

For apprentices, whose parents or guardians derive their means of living mainly from farming, the fees are proportional to the appropriate tenement valuation of their holdings, as follows:—

	Per acre
When the aggregate valuation does not exceed £20, ...	£3
Exceeds £20 but does not exceed £40, ...	£5
Exceeds £40 but does not exceed £100, ...	£10
Exceeds £100, ...	£15
For apprentices not included in the foregoing classes, ...	£20

For this sum the apprentices are boarded and lodged, as well as educated. They are, however, required to do part of the work of the farm. The course at present lasts for one year. In addition to being taught practical field operations, such as have to be performed on a well-managed holding, the apprentices receive class-room instruction in English, farm arithmetic, surveying, book-keeping, and agriculture. They also study the methods of improving land, tillage, cultivation of crops, use and purchase of manures, seeds and feeding stuffs, the management of pastures, dairying, butter-making, gardening, hedging, wood and iron work, etc.

At Glanabally there is a mixed tillage farm of 350 acres. The Department have erected residential quarters for staff and apprentices, and stocked the farm. Plans are now in course of preparation for providing suitable farm buildings. The institution was opened in October, 1905, and eighteen students were enrolled; the number enrolled for the present session (1906-7) is twenty-three.

At Athlery there is about 700 acres. When taken over by the Department almost all the land at this station was in grass, but it is now being gradually converted into tillage. Plans for this institution and farm buildings are at present being prepared. A temporary structure has been erected, and ten students have been taken into residence for the present.

At Ballyhaiss there is also about 700 acres of land, part of which is capable of being worked as a mixed farm. The mansion house on the estate has been altered to provide accommodation for about forty apprentices. It was opened only last year with twenty apprentices. Twenty-seven apprentices have been admitted to the 1906-7 session. Plans for suitable farm buildings at this institution are also in course of preparation.

The Commission will gain from the above but a poor idea of the work which the technical staff of the Agricultural Branch had to do in order to make progress with this work. To staff these institutions they had to provide teachers, which necessitated the refusal of

APPROPRIATE.

Hinterland instructions in agriculture to County Committees, and their action in so doing was, in some cases, locally misinterpreted and misunderstood. Agrarian troubles also had to be faced, and whereas in any other country it would have been possible to acquire land, erect buildings, appoint a staff, and proceed to work, the Department had to move with the utmost caution, doing one thing at a time, and waiting for local suspicions and misunderstandings to die out. At each of these places the Department found a staff of old servants, some of them very inefficient, and wholly unsuited to show apprentices how work should be done; yet, strange as it may seem, public opinion would not tolerate their removal, and even if they were removed intimidation would prevent really good workmen entering the Department's service. Time and perseverance will eventually remove these difficulties. They are very real in Ireland, though wholly unknown to pioneers of agricultural education in other countries.

WINTER SCHOOLS OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL CLASSING.

The main reason offered by a farmer for not giving a good education to the son who is to succeed him is that owing to scarcity of labour he cannot afford to lose his services on the farm. There is a good deal of truth in this argument, but it applies more to the summer season than to the winter, and, accordingly, it was decided to start local winter schools or classes, in order that opportunities of acquiring education might be put within the reach of those who could be spared from the farm during the summer. These classes are being organised mainly in counties which have already had the services of an itinerant instructor in agriculture for two or more years. At first the Department organised these winter schools themselves: now it is sought as far as possible to place them under the administration of local authorities. As, however, the work is new, and as the local bodies have not yet had much experience of this form of education, the Department's officers have associated themselves very closely with the local authorities, and have, in the majority of cases, undertaken the actual work of organisation and supervision. These winter schools differ somewhat according to locality, but the following is a description of the most common type. A classroom at some rural centre, convenient to a village or railway junction, is secured; provision is made to have it warmed and lighted; and it is equipped with plain deal benches or tables and agricultural specimens, such as seeds and manures, breeding studs, grasses, and such like. Where the county itinerant instructor in agriculture is not available to teach the classes, the Department provides a special teacher for the course. The County Committee advances the school, and offer to pay the travelling expenses of young men who will attend the school regularly. In some cases the student is supplied with a mid-day meal gratis. Where a special teacher is employed, three two-day classes or two three-day classes, are held each week during the course, which usually extends over twenty weeks, opening in October and closing in March. The number of pupils in each class is limited to twenty-four. The classes are held for five hours per day. The subjects taught are agriculture—soils, tillage, cropping, manures (natural and artificial), seeds, grasses, weeds, treatment of pastures, management of live stock, including winter dairying, valuation of manure and feeding stuffs; simple farm account keeping, measurement, elementary chain surveying; and elementary science explanatory of the principles underlying ordinary farm practice. This instruction is given by the resident teacher, while lectures and demonstrations are given on horticulture and poultry-keeping by county instructors, and on veterinary science by visiting teachers.

At one centre where the class is held for five hours on five days per week during twenty weeks, a more extended course is given and laboratory equipment, which is considered unnecessary for the shorter courses already referred to, is provided. In this case a maintenance allowance of 15s. per week is made to pupils who, being unable to travel daily to and from their homes, find it necessary to reside at the class centre.

The following table shows the classes held each year since 1902, and the number of students enrolled:—

Year.	Number of Classes.	Number of Students enrolled.
1902-3.	3	44
1903-4.	7	107
1904-5.	18	212
1905-6.	24	294
1906-7.	28	413

Nothing but the want of properly-qualified teachers prevents this type of instruction from being developed to such magnitude as the funds available will permit.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION FOR GIRLS.

Reference has been made to the fact, that when the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin, and the Munster Institute, Cork, were handed over to the Department in 1900 by the Commissioners of National Education, alternate courses of instruction were being held at both these institutions for males and females. It has already been shown how the Albert College has been re-organised, enlarged, equipped, and suited for male students. The Munster Institute, Cork, has been similarly treated with a view to training girls. The demand for admission from residents in all parts of Ireland soon increased, and it was found necessary to enlarge the premises, and at the same time the Institute was very fully equipped so that a complete course of training could be given to young women who were anxious to qualify for employment under the Department and under the local authorities on schemes of instruction which will be described later on. Additional teachers have been appointed, and accommodation is now provided for fifty pupils. Some idea of the demand for admission may be gained from the fact that from fifteen to eighteen months must elapse between the time that an intending pupil makes her application for admission and the time when her term for admission comes round. Though the school is not advertised there are on the Department's books awaiting admission seldom fewer than 200 girls.

The course of training includes:—

- (1) The practice of dairy work.
- (2) The working of a dairy farm, including the feeding and management of cows and pigs, the cropping of small gardens, and the manipulation of bees.
- (3) Poultry-keeping.
- (4) Household work, including plain cookery, needlework, and laundry work.

The chief aim and object of this course is to so train young girls that when they return to their homes they may make better and more economical use of the materials they have to hand. A more extended course is given to the best pupils so that they may become qualified to act as teachers.

Four sessions are held annually, each of about eleven weeks' duration. The fee for one session is three guineas, which is all the pupils pay for education, board and lodging, and medical attendance.

An examination is held at the end of each session. All students who attain the necessary standard at the end of the first session may be re-admitted to a second. The standard is such that practically every student who so desires may remain for a second session. It is considered that the six months' course of training thus obtained is sufficient for the great majority of students who, as mentioned above, desire to return to their homes, or for those who, as happens in some cases, desire to obtain situations in private houses as dairy maids, etc. The examination held at the end of the second session is, however, so designed as to enable the examiners to pick out those students who are likely to become capable teachers under the county instruction schemes. An examination of a similar character is held at the end of the third session, and no student is given a certificate qualifying her to act as a teacher unless she has been in residence in the school for at least four sessions, and in most cases the course is extended to a fifth, or even a sixth session.

A limited number of free and half-free places are awarded to students who display special merit at the terminal examination of the first session to enable them to avail themselves of a second session entirely or partially free of expense. A few similar places are also offered at the end of the second session.

The staff of the Institute consists of:—

- (1.) A superintendent, who in addition to being responsible for the working of the Institute and farm, also gives instruction in general farm management.
- (2.) A matron, who in addition to her duties as such gives instruction in laundry work.
- (3.) A teacher of butter-making and dairy management.
- (4.) A teacher of poultry keeping.
- (5.) A teacher of coakery and needlework.
- (6.) An experienced gardener who gives instruction in horticulture and bee-keeping.

A limited staff of domestic servants is kept, as the students themselves perform the routine work of the Institute, such as general household work, washing and laundry work, milking and separating, and butter-making.

The farm attached to the school comprises about 120 acres. In addition to the educational uses to which it is put the farm serves as a centre for the housing and distribution of stock in connection with the county schemes for encouraging improvement in the breeding of cattle, pigs and poultry.

As in the case of the Albert College, Glasnevin, and the three Agricultural Stations, the Department have enlarged and remodelled the residential and educational buildings.

It is unnecessary to enlarge on the excellence of the instruction and training given in this Institute: the increasing demand for admission, to which reference has been made, speaks for itself.

The Department have recently acquired land in Ulster for the erection of a somewhat similar school there. This has been rendered necessary by the impossibility of meeting the demand for this class of instruction at the Cork school.

The Department have also provided courses for girls in rural domestic economy at Portlanna, Co. Galway; at Westport, and at Clonsilla, Co. Mayo; at Loughglin, Co. Roscommon, and at Ramnagar, Co. Wexford. It is the Department's wish that these should be day rather than residential schools, so as to keep the pupils while receiving instruction in close touch with the life and circumstances of her own home. It is hoped that thus on the one hand a more direct improvement in the home life of the people may follow from the influence of the teaching, and on the other hand that the danger of the girls getting dissuaded to live at home, which so often arises from the teaching of a training school, may be avoided. These schools are more or less an experiment, but should they prove successful it is proposed to provide further facilities for local instruction of this nature.

But schools of rural domestic economy are not the only provision which the Department have made for instruction to girls. Out of the funds at their disposal the Agricultural Board annually vote a sum of £7,500 to be utilised by the Technical Instruction Branch of the Department in the teaching of domestic economy by a system of itinerant instruction.

Further, the Department have made very liberal provision in co-operation with local authorities for the instruction of girls in poultry-keeping and dairying. This will be referred to later when the work of the local authorities is being described.

COUNTY SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURE.

The work so far described has been in the main directed to the training of teachers and experts, and to the initiation of what is hoped will develop into a system of agricultural education which will meet the needs of Ireland if it is not unduly forced but allowed to grow naturally out of the existing conditions of agriculture, and out of the practical education which is being provided by local authorities. The education which is provided by local authorities is intended immediately and directly to help the occupiers of the land as well as cottagers, and to arouse in them a desire for a better education for their sons and daughters, without which it would be impossible for any system of agricultural education to

prove successful. The operations of the local authorities are usually designated "county schemes." These provide for instruction by itinerant instructors—a form of education which has played an important part in the development of agriculture in many countries. The work is now under the immediate direction of the County Committees of Agriculture. The schemes are revised annually at the beginning of the agricultural year so as to give each local authority an opportunity of making suggestions for an improvement in the method of procedure, suggested by the experience gained during the year, or for the total rejection of the scheme if they are dissatisfied with it. At first, when the number of instructors available was very limited, and when the Committee and the public had had no experience of such work, the Department themselves provided directly for work of this kind by sending second person instructors. Each year, however, has seen a greater demand for instruction of this character, and as the demand increased and instructors became available, the direction of the work was gradually delegated to the Committee themselves. They appoint the instructors, arrange their work, check and pay their locomotion expenses and the salaries of all, except in the case of the agricultural instructors, whose salaries are paid directly by the Department. The cost of these schemes is paid out of the joint fund, that is, the amount of the 1d. or 4d. rate provided by the County Council, and the Department's contribution, which is provided annually by the Agricultural Board after the schemes for the year have been placed before them and approved.

The question as to how long schemes of this nature should remain in operation in one which has not yet arisen and which will be left to the County Committees themselves to decide. As will be shown, however, their popularity has been so great and the demand for such work is so steadily increasing that there is every prospect of their being retained in their present form for a much longer time than the Department originally anticipated. In Ireland the schemes differ from those of a similar character provided in other countries, in this, that in addition to the money spent on the actual instruction, very considerable sums are spent by each Committee in directly encouraging the various branches of agriculture in a manner which shall be described presently.

The outlines of each form of instruction are embodied in a printed scheme which is revised annually. Copies can be supplied to any member of the Commission who may desire to see them.

The schemes for 1907 comprise:—

1. Instruction in Agriculture.
2. " " Poultry Keeping.
3. " " Dairying.
4. " " Horticulture and Bee-keeping.

INSTRUCTION IN AGRICULTURE.

Briefly this scheme provides for the appointment of local committees of at least one itinerant instructor in each county.

His duties are as follows:—

To deliver courses of lectures on agricultural subjects, such as soils, manures, seeds, pastures, crops and their cultivation, breeding, feeding, and management of live stock; to visit farms; to conduct such experiments and demonstrations in spring and summer as may be approved by the Department; to select suitable land for this purpose; to supervise the sowing of the seeds and manures and the keeping of the plots free from weeds; to weigh the produce, tabulate the figures, and prepare a report on the results; to assist, if required, in the teaching at agricultural classes established with the approval of the Department; to reply to letters from farmers seeking information; to advise farmers how they may avail themselves of the Department's live stock schemes and of the Department's seed-testing station; to make known the provisions of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act; to advise farmers how they can best avail themselves of all schemes which may be adopted by the County Committee and by the Department, and how they may take advantage of agricultural organisations; to report to the Department and to the County Committee regarding the progress of his work, either weekly or otherwise, as may be required; and generally to

APPENDIX IV.

give his whole time to the work and do all in his power to further the interests of agriculture in the county.

The instructor may also be required to act as judge in connection with the scheme of prizes for cottages and small farms in a county other than that in which he acts as instructor.

The Department make it a condition that this officer must have had a first-class training in technical and practical agriculture, not that he is required or allowed to give highly technical or scientific lectures or advice, but in order that there may be some guarantee that the practical advice which he tenders is based upon a sound scientific study of the problems which he has to solve and to prevent what has done so much harm to agricultural education elsewhere—the giving of engine advice.

Last year twenty-three instructors were at work under the direction of the County Committees. These officers attended 1,169 meetings of farmers, at which they delivered lectures, and assisted in the subsequent discussions. The average attendance at these meetings was fifty-six. The number of field experiments and demonstrations on the use of manure and various crops to be instituted during the coming year is not yet available, but last year these instructors arranged and carried out 2,622 field demonstrations, and 439 field experiments. It may be pointed out that a demonstration consists of one plot to illustrate a particular kind of treatment of the soil or method of growing a crop; the results are determined on inspection by the farmers themselves. Each field experiment, on the other hand, consists of several plots treated differently, and from which the crops are very carefully weighed and measured, and the results published and circulated. These experiments and their results will be referred to later.

That the work of these instructors is not only popular, but effective, is proved by the fact that County Committees which have undertaken it desire to continue the work, and have absolutely refused to part with their instructor, even for one year, to help other counties who have failed to secure one. It is shown also by the constant demand for advice of the instructor, not merely personally at the lectures and in the market place, but by private correspondence. The letter books of the instructors last year show that they had to give advice by letter in about 25,000 cases. A still better proof of the appreciation of this work in the county, however, is illustrated by the following figures:—

Year.	Number of Counties in which made provision for an Instructive Instructor in Agriculture.	Number of Counties in which an Instructive Instructor in Agriculture was actually at work
1900-1.	—	Information not available.
1901-2.	—	10
1902-3.	22	10
1903-4.	25	15
1904-5.	30	17
1905-6.	31	27
1906-7.	35	26

It will be seen that the work has by no means reached its full development. The difficulty which at once confronted the Department and the County Committees was the lack of qualified instructors, and time was required to train them. The steps which the Department at the very outset of their work took to meet this difficulty have already been mentioned. Four batches of trained men have since been sent out, all of whom are now employed; twelve men will have completed their third year's course at the Royal College of Science in June next, for all of whom, if qualified, and more if they were available, there is immediate employment. With commendable patience, many Committees have consented to wait until they could secure the services of a trained Irishman, but others have advertised in the Press of Great Britain and Ireland. In Great Britain, however, the scarcity is nearly as great as in this

country owing to the somewhat similar schemes in vogue there, and also to the great demand which now exists for trained agricultural instructors in India, South Africa, Egypt, Australia, and New Zealand.

PRIZES FOR COTTAGES AND SMALL FARMS.

Closely associated with the work of the itinerant instructor is that of a scheme for awarding prizes given by County Committees to cottagers and owners of small farms for cleanliness and efficiency in their premises; for the cultivation of their gardens, and the general management of their farms in accordance with the recommendations of the agricultural or other instructor. The figures for this scheme for the present year are, of course, not yet available, but last year there were 8,146 competitors for these prizes. This work was commenced in 1902 by two Committees, and last year 27 made provision for it; and this year funds have been set aside in 31 counties. The details of these prizes are drawn up by each County Committee for itself in consultation with the Department's officers; except in the case of Cork, where the local authority has delegated the work to another body since 1905. In the current year the total sum offered in prizes under this scheme amounts to £5,588. Except in Cork, the Department inspect the farms and supply the local authority with a report and a list of persons who are recommended for prizes. For this purpose the Department utilize part of the time during the summer months of each of the agricultural instructors, but of course no instructor is allowed to administer the scheme in the county to which he is attached. The Department therefore, it will be seen, pay the whole cost of the judging. The fact that the county instructor, while he is occupied with this duty, is in the direct employment of the Department, is one of the chief reasons why his whole salary is paid direct by the Department and not out of the joint fund. It is remarked that the Commission would not wish for full details, or to have submitted to them the voluminous reports of the instructors on this subject. They are, however, available for inspection.

Closely allied to the work of the itinerant instructor is that undertaken by several County Committees in promoting out of the Joint Fund ploughing and other competitions in the performance of various agricultural operations.

INSTRUCTION IN POULTRY-KEEPING.

A very considerable part of the income of farmers, particularly of small farmers, cottagers and labourers, is derived from the sale of eggs and fowl. The value of the eggs and poultry exported in 1904—the only year for which a return is available—amounted to nearly £3,000,000. Poultry-keeping is an industry which is capable of still greater development in Ireland, where the holdings are small. During the first years of the Department's work, repeated demands were made for investigation into the cause of a heavy mortality among poultry. As soon as the possibility of other work permitted, the condition of the industry was carefully studied, and it was found that much of the mortality was due to the fact that the fowl were often improperly housed and fed, and that the effects of in-breeding and want of fresh blood were the main causes of the inferiority of the birds themselves, as well as the abnormal death-rate.

At the outset it was decided to give a number of pioneer lectures on the subject in order mainly to illustrate the kind of instruction that has been given in other countries, and to recommend local authorities to take the matter up. The result was that four counties appointed instructors in poultry-keeping, and each year there has been a gradual increase in the number of Committees taking up this work. During the current year all the counties, except Donegal, Dublin and Limerick, are at work on this scheme.

The duty of the instructor in poultry-keeping, who is usually a lady—it having been found impossible to induce Irishmen to give attention to this industry—comprises the following:—

Under the supervision of a local committee, to deliver courses of lectures on poultry-keeping, including the selection of breeds, the hatching and rearing of chickens, the feeding and housing of

poultry, and the marketing of the produce; to give demonstrations and lessons on the treatment of common diseases, such as gapes, &c., the cramming of fowls and on the plucking, tanning, and preparation of poultry for market, and on the grading and packing of eggs; to visit poultry runs, and give such practical advice as may be desired by poultry-keepers, to inspect the egg distribution and turkey stations referred to in clauses 11 and 12 of the scheme, to report to the Department and to the County Committee regarding the progress of his or her work either weekly or otherwise as may be required, and generally to give his or her whole time towards promoting improvement in poultry-keeping in the county.

During the year 1904-5, 2,562 meetings were held, the average attendance thereto being 60.

With a view to securing an improvement in the class of birds, the scheme provides that each Committee may give out of the joint fund a premium of 25 to selected persons, who distribute during the season 70 settings of eggs of an approved pure breed of fowl from a farm where no other fowl are kept. These fowl and a brace are usually supplied at less than cost price. Stricter regulations exist with regard to turkeys and ducks. Even geese have not escaped the notice of the Committees. During the current year there are no fewer than 486 farms distributing settings of eggs in the manner described (hen and duck eggs, 180; hen eggs only, 345), and last year 82,500 dozens of eggs were so distributed. Turkey stations have also been established in 30 counties, and the number of premiums offered for male birds this year is 404.

It is unnecessary to weary the Commission with the details of how this work is carried out by the County Committees, it being sufficient to refer them to the scheme itself, which will show the amount of attention that has been given to this important subject. In one county (Antrim) the County Committee, instead of having a number of farms for distributing eggs, have one central farm of their own for the purpose, but no other Committee has expressed a desire to follow this plan.

Not the least of the difficulties has been that of providing qualified instructors to carry on the work. In other countries young men are attracted to the business, but in Ireland we have failed to induce them to undertake it. In the first year or two the Department sent a few Irishmen to be trained in England, but since the reorganisation of the Munster Institute as a training school, County Committees get their teachers from there.

But, as the Commission will readily understand, it is not sufficient to give instruction in the most profitable methods in the feeding and management of poultry, or in the improvement of the breed. It is also necessary to do something to secure an improvement in the marketing arrangements. Until some improvement had been effected through the agency of the County Committees, and until the Department were in a position to guarantee the quality of Irish eggs and fowl, they could not take up the question of marketing. The direction of the improvement of the industry has now been well organised, and the Department have recently turned their attention to the question of markets. A great deal has undoubtedly been done by the instructors, as well as by co-operative societies, in effecting an improvement in the methods by which eggs are placed upon the market. Much also has been done to improve the class of bird intended for the table, but a great deal still remains to be done to place this commodity on the market in a manner which will secure the greatest returns to the person who rears the fowl. Enormous quantities of birds are shipped alive to Great Britain from Ireland, unfattened and unfit for the table. Many of these are fattened in establishments in Great Britain, and thus the main profits are lost to the Irish cottager. The Department have, however, induced a number of private individuals, as well as one or two co-operative societies, to take up the fattening of birds in this country, and to send them to the English markets ready for the kitchen. As in every other branch of our work, a difficulty has been experienced in procuring properly trained workers, and to meet this the Department have established a school in which the cramming and fattening of fowl for mar-

ket are properly taught. This school is in County Wicklow, where from one to two thousand birds, which are brought in the neighbourhood, and which are mostly the produce of eggs of improved breeds specially distributed for the purpose, are constantly being fattened, and where apprentices are trained. This work is more suited to men than women, but the greatest difficulty has been experienced in getting a suitable class of apprentices, although they are offered good wages while learning their business, and a fair prospect of employment when they are qualified.

Where a society or an individual puts up sufficient capital and buildings to warrant the hope that a successful poultry fattening industry might be started in the district, the Department supply so far as they can a qualified manager free of charge for twelve months. It has not been considered desirable to subsidise industries of this kind in any other way than the giving of technical advice.

To assist persons or societies in the marketing of their agricultural produce, particularly in the marketing of poultry, the Department have had an office for a considerable time past in Great Britain collecting information with regard to the firms who deal with the various commodities, the kind of packages required, the class of goods which suit each market, &c. A great amount of information of this kind has been amassed in the office, of which good use will be made as opportunity offers and as the work develops.

INSTRUCTION IN HOME DAIRYING.

Having given special attention to dairying both in the United Kingdom and abroad, it is believed that owing to her natural conditions no country in the world could compete with Ireland in butter-making if the actual conditions under which the butter is manufactured were improved as they can be by education. The income to Ireland from the sale of butter in Great Britain is very considerable, amounting to some millions sterling per annum, a sum which could be substantially increased by improvement in the price of butter, even if the quantity exported remained permanent. A great change has been effected in butter-making in Ireland in recent years by the establishment of creameries, of which there are many hundreds now in existence in which the farmer's milk is separated, and the cream churned into butter for exportation. So important is this trade to Ireland, that the Department have devoted a great deal of attention to encouraging improvement in creamery management, a subject which it has not yet been considered desirable to delegate to the County Committees, and which is, therefore, being administered directly from the central office.

Home butter-making, however, is far from extinct. There are few districts in which home butter-making is not carried on either for the production of butter to be consumed by the family, or to be sold for consumption in the locality or for exportation. The improvement, therefore, of home dairying is a subject which County Committees can deal with efficiently, and accordingly this work has been delegated to those bodies. The form of instruction provided is that of classes in practical butter-making extending for a period of from two to four weeks. Each County Committee appoints an instructor, supplying her with an equipment for the daily instruction of twelve pupils. The cost, as in other schemes carried on by the Committees, is paid out of the joint fund. These teachers have been trained by the Department at the Munster Institute, Cork. The duties of the instructor, as supervised by a local committee, are as follows:—On the first day of visiting each estate the instructor should give a public lecture and demonstration, and during the remainder of the course at that estate should conduct a class daily in which pupils only will take part, but which shall be open to the public.

It is also the duty of the instructor to visit home dairies in the county and to give advice as required; to give where possible during that part of the day not required for class work, demonstrations in the making of butter, by means of the equipment actually in use in the dairies visited; to reply to letters from persons seeking advice on butter-making; to report to the Department and to the County Committee on the progress of her work either weekly or otherwise as may be required; and generally to give her whole time to the work of the Committee.

APPENDIX IV.

In the year 1900-1 only one county was at work, but the number has gradually increased until at present twenty-one counties have each one instructor, two counties (Wexford and Cork), have each two instructors, while one county (Mayo) has three instructors. The increase which has taken place in this scheme is shown by the following figures:—

Year.	No. of District Instructors in Instruction.
1900-1,	1
1901-2,	2
1902-3,	13
1903-4,	21
1904-5,	25
1905-6,	28
1906-7,	30

INSTRUCTION IN HORTICULTURE.

As in the case of other subjects, the Department carry on from the central office a large amount of work in connection with the development of horticulture. The work here described relates only to that which is delegated to, and carried out by, local authorities. The scheme provides for the appointment of a local committee, and of at least one qualified instructor whose duties are as follows:—

To give demonstrations and to deliver lectures on horticultural subjects, such as soils, manures, vegetable, fruit, and flower cultivation, plant diseases, and insect pests; to visit gardens and orchards, and give practical demonstrations on sowing, planting, pruning and grafting of fruit trees; to conduct such experiments and other demonstrations in the spring and summer as may be approved by the Department; to select suitable land for this purpose; to supervise the sowing of the seeds and manures, and the keeping of the plots free from weeds; to weigh the produce, tabulate the figures, and prepare a report on the results; to give instruction in the principles and practice of modern bee-keeping; to deal with diseases of bees; to reply to letters from those seeking his advice on horticultural and bee-keeping subjects; to report to the Department and to the County Committee on the progress of his work either weekly or otherwise, as may be required; and generally to give his whole time to the work and to do all in his power to further the interests of horticulture and bee-keeping in the county.

For the purposes of this scheme, the county should be divided into circuits. The instructor should work for three or four weeks in each circuit, and give lectures and demonstrations during that time. In cases, however, where an instructor may be employed to give instruction in bee-keeping only it will not be necessary to divide the county into circuits. In such instances demonstrations can be arranged for at centres from which applications have been made through the secretary of the County Committee for his services. The instructor will visit gardens, orchards, or apiculture in the district, and give such information on practical subjects as the circumstances of the case may suggest.

At present twenty-one counties have instructors at work while five others have allocated funds, but have failed to secure properly qualified men. Here, again, as in other schemes of a like character, where an expert instructor is an essential factor in the work, the greatest difficulty has been experienced in obtaining qualified men. The Department have, however, as already explained, established at the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin, a school of horticulture for the training of such men, where there are at present a number of men in training, and it is only a matter of time for all the counties to be supplied.

Under this scheme also, the County Committees are authorised to purchase trees in bulk at wholesale prices and resell them to farmers, cottagers and others at cost price plus carriage.

Last year about 600 meetings were held, at which lectures were delivered, followed by discussions, the average attendance thereat being sixty. The instructors gave technical advice and assistance to over 12,000 gardens and about a quarter of a million fruit and other trees were distributed.

This work is proceeding quite as rapidly as is de-

sirable, as time is required for nurserymen to prepare a stock of trees for sale, and any undue haste in putting the scheme in operation is only likely to result in the sale of inferior and diseased trees. The Department have gone to considerable trouble to prevent the importation into Ireland of diseased trees. An inspector is sent to examine the stocks of nurserymen from whom the County Committees propose to purchase trees. The progress which has been made in this scheme is shown by the following figures:—

Year.	No. of Diseases Inspectors in Horticulture.
1900-1,	NIL
1901-2,	1
1902-3,	9
1903-4,	14
1904-5,	17
1905-6,	21
1906-7,	23

INSTRUCTION IN BEE-KEEPING.

The relative greater cost of providing instruction in bee-keeping is a drawback to the work of the County Committees in encouraging this industry. It must be remembered that itinerant instruction in Ireland is costly, not only owing to the relatively high salaries which have to be paid owing to the lack of teachers, but also to the fact that travelling and maintenance expenses are heavy, accommodation for officers in remote parts of the country being often inferior necessitating long car drives. County Committees have, therefore, been somewhat reluctant to engage an instructor whose sole duty is to attend to the bee-keeping industry. Up to the present, however, there has been a separate scheme for bee-keeping, under which each County Committee might appoint an instructor who, under supervision of a local committee, is required to give instruction in the principles and practice of modern bee-keeping, mainly by means of demonstrations at centres from which application is made through the secretary of the County Committee for his services, to deal with diseases of bees, to reply to letters from those seeking his advice, to report to the Department and to the County Committee on the progress of his work, either weekly or otherwise, as may be required, and generally to assist in the promotion of bee-keeping in such a manner as the County Committee, with the approval of the Department, may direct. The instructor will, when invited to do so, visit, either on the day of the demonstration, or on the following day, any apiaries in the neighbourhood, and give such practical information as the circumstances of the case may suggest.

The instructor shall report to the County Committee on all cases of foul brood which may come under his notice. He may, subject to the consent of the owner of the bees being previously obtained by him, destroy infected stocks by burning them, and shall take all due precautions against the spread of the disease. He must advise in writing the County Committee of each case in which stocks are so destroyed, and the County Committee may, if they think fit, pay to the owners of such stocks a sum not exceeding 5s. for each stock destroyed, provided that the amount set aside in the county scheme for compensation under this clause shall not be exceeded.

Having regard to the fact that bee-keeping is a subject that goes hand-in-hand with gardening, it is proposed in future that the horticultural instructor shall also give attention to bee-keeping. Accordingly, the Department have arranged for special courses of instruction in bee-keeping to the horticultural instructors in order to qualify them for their added duties. At present there are several horticultural instructors who also give attention to bee-keeping. In a few counties only are there instructors who attend to bee-keeping only.

Foul brood is a disease which in some districts is more or less prevalent in apiaries, and it has been suggested that there should be legislation to compulsorily stamp out this disease. Before resorting to such measures, however, the Department have considered it wise to give the County Committees an opportunity of dealing with the matter. For this purpose the Department have advocated the allocation by County Committees of a reasonable sum from the joint fund to enable compensation to be paid for

damaged stocks destroyed on the advice of the instructor. In the event of such measures proving ineffective, legislation on the lines indicated will be seriously contemplated.

In addition to encouraging bee-keeping in the manner indicated, the Department have usually supplied a bee tent and an expert to give demonstrations at the local and county agricultural shows.

FLAX GROWING.

Flax is a crop which is grown mainly in certain districts in the North of Ireland. County Committees have not appointed itinerant instructors to give instruction in this subject, the Department having supplied such an expert in districts where the crop is specially cultivated. In the early years the Department themselves applied funds in other ways for encouraging this industry. This they still do, but as much of the work as can be so dealt with has since been delegated to the County Committees of those counties in which flax is grown. The growing and preparation of flax is a subject on which the Department have spent a considerable amount of time and money, particulars of which are described later in this memorandum.

THE TEACHER RESPECTIVELY.

The Committee cannot have failed to observe that while describing the work of the local authorities, repeated reference has been made to the fact that the number of counties taking up these schemes is far short of what would have been the case had there been a supply of qualified teachers. As, however, no provision had been made in Ireland for the training of such officers, County Committees had either to wait until the Department trained Irish men and women as teachers and instructors, or they had to obtain them from Great Britain. A very great deal has been heard on this subject. The fact is that the officers of the Department have again and again brought their influence to bear on the County Committees, as well as on individual members thereof, to wait until Irish men and women were trained before putting their schemes of instruction into operation. The truth is that those members of the County Committees who are genuinely concerned in the success of the work do not care what the nationality of their instructor is so long as they get good ones.

This agitation assumed an extreme form in one county, viz., Donegal, where exception was taken to the appointment of any person not a native of the county. In the beginning the Department did not object to the appointment of persons in their native county, provided they had the necessary qualifications. Experience, however, showed that there were great drawbacks to this system. In the first place natives are too well known to their neighbours usually to be effective teachers. Secondly, the whole success of the scheme depends upon having an officer who is constantly moving about and visiting farmers, as well as giving lectures in the evenings. In some cases where the instructor had his or her home in the county there was a tendency to remain at home all day, and merely act as a lecturer and to do no itinerant work. The fact that the salary under the schemes covers the cost of maintenance has, of course, a strong tendency to induce an instructor who is a native of the county to be always at home. Thirdly, but by far the greatest objection to the employment of instructors in their own counties, is the fact that these officers have a considerable amount of patronage to bestow. Under the agricultural scheme the instructor has often to select the persons on whose farms the demonstrations and experiments are to be carried out, and as there are considerable sums spent on seeds and manures, it is a consideration to a small employer to get these provided out of public funds. Under the poultry scheme premiums of £5 are given to persons who distribute eggs from a flock of birds which have to be approved of by the instructor; and under the horticultural scheme there are demonstration plots for which trees and seeds are provided out of the public funds. That an instructor could exercise this patronage without being subjected to undue pressure from his friends, relatives, and supporters who desire these premiums, manures, seeds, and trees, is more than could be expected. Accordingly the Department have made it a rule that these instructors should not be natives of or residents in the county in which they work. Whatever may be said in speeches intended for the press, there are few

people who do not recognise the need for such a rule. The County Committee referred to was invited by the Vice-President to bring the matter before the Council of Agriculture—the body representative of all County Committees, before which questions involving principles and policy of the Department's schemes may be criticised.

IMPROVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK.

As the Irish farmer's income is derived mainly from live stock, the improvement of this industry was one of the chief projects which the Department were at the outset asked to take up. Various methods were suggested by which this might be done, and as these were questions of national importance to be safeguarded, the Department thought it wise to appoint two expert committees to advise them in the matter—one for home-breeding, and the other for cattle and swine. Previously a sum of £5,000 of public money had been administered by the Royal Dublin Society for the improvement of live stock, and the advisory committee recommended the Department to follow the lines of the Royal Dublin Society's schemes on the ground that they were already understood. Schemes on these lines were prepared and submitted to the Agricultural Board, who approved of them, and at the same time voted funds to put them in force. In the first year all the County Committees, with the exception of two, took up this work. Every year since all have done so. The volume of the work done and the funds expended in this direction by each committee have grown annually, and the Department are now faced with the problem as to how far it is desirable to allow expenditure to increase under this head.

The schemes are revised each year; each County Committee is asked for its suggestions on the working of the previous year's scheme. These recommendations are carefully considered by the Advisory Committee, and the recommendations which have been made by the County Committees have nearly all been embodied; wherever practicable, the conditions have been framed so that each Committee may arrange the details of the scheme to suit the requirements of its particular county. Each year the schemes, as recommended by the advisory committee, are laid before the Agricultural Board, together with an estimate of the expenditure which is likely to be incurred. When approved of by the Board, the schemes are submitted to the County Committees, who meet, and with the help of an inspector of the Department allocate the necessary funds for the purpose, and proceed to put the work in operation in the manner already described.

Copies of each scheme will be supplied to anyone desiring to see them. It will be sufficient to briefly state their main provisions.

HOME-BREEDING SCHEME.

The objects of this scheme are to encourage the improvement of home-breeding by inducing stallion-owners to keep sound and suitable sires of a high degree of excellence, and by inducing farmers to obtain their best young sires for breeding purposes. The work of the scheme is divided between the Department and the County Committees. The Department annually invite applications from owners of high-class stallions to have their animals inspected for suitability and soundness. The breeds submitted have hitherto been Thoroughbred, Clydesdale, and Shire. In the first year every stallion offered was inspected, and the work entailed was exceedingly heavy. Of a total of 410 animals offered for inspection, only 131 were considered suitable. A great deal of disappointment was necessarily caused by the rejection of such a large number of sires for unsoundness or for want of merit, and the Department came in for a good deal of censure by the owners of these animals and their friends. Notwithstanding the unpopularity of their action in setting up a high standard, the Department are convinced that in this part of the scheme lies its chief value to Irish home-breeders, and that the country now realises the advantage that have accrued from the Department's high standard. The result has not only been that a large number of good sound sires have been imported into Ireland, but a very much larger number of unsound sires or worthless animals which would otherwise have been imported have been excluded. For breeders realise the advantage which the inclusion of their sires on the

APPENDIX IV. Department's register confers and make their purchases subject to the approval of the Department's inspectors, who are sent to any part of the United Kingdom free of cost to the intending purchaser to examine such animals. Indeed, anyone new desirous of purchasing or importing a stallion for mating with farmers' mares almost invariably looks to the Department to find a site for them, and the demand has become so great that in recent years the Department have found it necessary to purchase themselves good animals as they become available, and have kept them at their Stud Farm, County Dublin, where intending purchasers can have an opportunity of seeing them and making their own selection.

The Department also give loans for the purchase of high-class sires and grant subsidies varying from £50 to £100 to approved applicants who are prepared to purchase suitable sires, and locate them in districts where registered stallions are not already available. The loan amounts to two-thirds of the purchase price, and is repaid in five annual instalments, with 2½ per cent. interest on the outstanding balance. The animal remains the property of the Department for five years—a wise provision, as it often prevents the sale of animals for which other countries are willing to pay much more than they cost the Department. The following figures show the increase in the number of registered sires year by year, as well as the number of loans and subsidies granted:—

Year.	Number of Registered Sires.	Number of Loans Granted.	Subsidies Granted.
1905, ..	158	7	3
1906, ..	162	5	0
1907, ..	193	9	7
1908, ..	211	13	13
1909, ..	229	12	9
1910, ..	238	9	0

Only in some of the very poor districts in the West of Ireland do the Department themselves locate stallions, having usually succeeded in inducing a sufficient number of persons to buy animals for other districts.

With regard to the other parts of the scheme, namely, inducing farmers to keep their best mares for breeding purposes, this work is mainly in the hands of the County Committees, who hold annually in the spring exhibitions of young mares to which the Department at their own expense send a judge and veterinary surgeon to select a limited number of the largest and best, to the owners of which the County Committees issue what is called a nomination ticket. This ticket entitles the owner of the mare to select any stallion registered by the Department to mate with his mare. The ticket is given to the stallion owner in lieu of fee at the time of service, and the stallion owner collects the money from the County Committee at the end of the season. The sum varies from £2 to £3 per ticket, as is decided by the County Committee, and it is paid out of the sum allocated from the joint fund for the purpose of the horse-breeding scheme. Last year 227 such mare exhibitions were held, and 3,503 nomination tickets were issued. The total sum earned by the thirty-three County Committees for nominations to mares was £8,587. The following figures will show the income which has taken place in this part of the scheme since 1900:—

Year.	Number of Nominations to Mares.	Amount paid therefor.
1900, ..	1,544	£ 4,635
1901, ..	1,840	5,331
1902, ..	1,954	6,224
1903, ..	2,044	7,228
1904, ..	2,479	8,125
1905, ..	2,792	8,432

A great deal of discussion has taken place with reference to the subsidising of other breeds of sires, viz., hackneys and half-breeds. Through the Council of Agriculture, the country has expressed its general belief that the hackney stallion should be excluded, but that the half-bred should be included. Accordingly during the last two years, in addition to the work already described, there has been a special scheme for encouraging farmers to keep good, sound half-bred stallions. Some hundreds of animals of this class have been inspected, but only about a score of these had been considered to have sufficient merit to warrant their being subsidised out of public funds. Owing to this small number the Department, on the advice of their expert committee on horse-breeding, and with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board have decided to admit half-bred sires to all the privileges extended in the scheme to thoroughbred sires. This arrangement takes effect in 1907 for the first time.

CATTLE-BREEDING SCHEME.

The Irish farmer's income is so much dependent upon cattle and its products that it is not surprising to find great interest in this scheme among farmers and County Committees. Nearly three-quarters of a million head of cattle are shipped annually to Great Britain, a great proportion of which are bought by farmers in the East of Great Britain to be fattened. The best customers, however, will take some hot animals which mature early and which are capable of being speedily turned out fitted for the best dead meat markets. Irish breeders, knowing well the ready demand there is for well-bred animals, are eager to obtain the use of high-class bulls, and the scheme for encouraging improvement in Irish cattle has, therefore, taken the form of subsidising the sire. Briefly the scheme is as follows:—The County Committee annually offer a number of subsidies in the form of premiums of £15 each to the owners of high-class bulls of certain specified breeds on condition that small farmers of a certain valuation, which is specified by the County Committee, can have the use of such bulls at the nominal fee of 1s. per cow. The County Committee, having made a selection of persons from among the applicants for these premiums, refer them to the Department whose inspectors examine such bulls as are already in the country and attend shows and sales of bulls for the purpose of selecting new ones and assisting the nominees of the County Committees to purchase.

As in the case of the stallions, the Department give loans to enable small farmers to buy these high-class bulls; the loan is two-thirds of the purchase price and is repayable in two annual instalments, with 2½ per cent. interest on the outstanding balance. As the insurance of this class of stock in public companies is very high (from 6 to 7 per cent.) the Department themselves insure the animals bought under their loan scheme, for which they charge only 2½ per cent. per annum, and so far the Department have not lost under this arrangement.

This year provision has been made for 630 premiums at an estimated cost of £12,500 out of the joint fund.

The following figures show the operations of this scheme since its inception in 1900, omitting special premiums for Congested Districts:—

Year.	Number of County Premiums.	Amount.	Number of Loans.
1900, ..	350	£ 4,000	54
1901, ..	424	5,654	88
1902, ..	418	6,296	100
1903, ..	754	10,917	122
1904, ..	798	13,777	147
1905, ..	828	12,596	283

DAIRY CATTLE REGISTRATION SCHEME.

Several County Committees have from time to time requested the Department to take steps to improve the milking qualities of Irish cattle, as it is feared that, owing to the demand for steers, too much attention might be paid to beef production. Some time ago the Department submitted this question to the Council of Agriculture, and that body gave its opinion that it was highly undesirable that there should be thirty-three separate and independent schemes, and that accordingly the Department should themselves start a herd book of animals which are not eligible for entry in existing herd books—in short, that an independent Irish Dairy Cattle Herd Book should be established in which only those animals should be entered which are of a defined type and of high-class milking qualities. It was originally contemplated that each County Committee should keep such a book, but as much confusion would arise had there been thirty-three standards, the Department, after consultation with the Advisory Committee on Cattle-breeding, and after having obtained the concurrence of the Agricultural Board for the expenditure of the necessary funds, have themselves decided to start such a book. The scheme has only been in existence one year. During June it is intended to make special visits for the purpose of testing the quantity and quality of the milk yield before such animals are accepted for registration. It is hoped that in a few years the progeny of these animals, if managed and bred in accordance with the conditions of the scheme will have the effect which the country, Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Board, Council of Agriculture, and the Department are all equally anxious to secure, viz., the production of a breed of animals with an increased milk yield.

SWINE SCHEME.

This scheme for encouraging the improvement of swine is based on the same principles as that for cattle, and has been in operation since 1900.

The premium for high-class sires is £25, payable over two years—£25 the first and £25 the second year. As, however, the persons who keep boars are usually of limited means, and as difficulty was experienced in previous years in obtaining suitable boars, provision was made under the 1904-5 scheme whereby the Department purchased the boars and sold them through County Committees to selected applicants, who each deposited £22 with the County Committee, the balance of the price of the animal being deducted from the amount of the premium at the end of the season. The result of this arrangement has been that the scheme is now working much more satisfactorily than in previous years. Difficulty is still found, however, in procuring an adequate supply of suitable boars, but a number of new herds have recently been established by breeders in Ireland, and it is hoped that this will in time get over the difficulty.

The following figures show the work of the scheme since 1900, omitting the number of special premiums given during the last two years in Congested Districts:—

Year.	Number of County Premiums.	Amount.
1901, ...	123	753
1902, ...	124	756
1903, ...	123	674
1904, ...	129	654
1905, ...	205	840
1906, ...	278	1,173

The details of these schemes have not been gone into, nor has an attempt been made to show the enormous amount of routine work that has to be done annually in connection therewith. If the recommendations made to the Department by the Committee for the improvement of these schemes are analysed, it will be found that very few of them have not been adopted in some form by the Department.

A comparison of the schemes for 1905, and those for 1906 will show that very considerable changes have been made, principally to meet the wishes expressed by the County Committees or by the Council of Agriculture, and a glance at the live stock forms, which are filled up each year by the County Committees, will show that all the details are left to the committees themselves so long as the principle of the scheme is not involved. For example, to the County Committee is left the selection of the particular breeds of horses, cattle, and swine which are to be selected for subsidy in the county; they also select the persons who are to keep the premium bulls and boars; they fix the valuation of the individuals who are to receive the maximum benefit from the use of these animals as well as a variety of other matters, into the details of which it is not necessary to enter. It will be observed that a very great increase has taken place in the volume of work undertaken under each of these schemes since their inception. The reasons for this may be considered here. In the first place it required two or three years before the small farmers whom the schemes are especially intended to benefit came to understand their provisions, and how they should proceed to take advantage of them. For this reason the Department are always reluctant once a scheme has been started and given a fair prospect of success to have it constantly changed, or to have a wholly different scheme substituted. In Ireland the agricultural press is not so widely read as in Great Britain. Even if it were, and a copy of a new scheme when issued was sent to each compiler, it is questionable whether many would take advantage of it until it had been tried by some person whom they knew, and whose example they would follow. One of the greatest drawbacks to the live stock schemes, however, has been the fact that owing to the simultaneous action of thirty-three County Committees there has not been a sufficient number of high-class sires available to supply the needs of the country. Each Committee has too often ignored the fact that the other thirty-two counties were engaged in exactly similar work, and that it is necessary for them to batten themselves if they are to secure a share of the sires available. Take, for example, the number of high-class bulls in the country. Provision has been made this year for over 900 bulls under the cattle scheme, but in no year as yet has the supply been equal to the demand, and the same is true with regard to boars. As has been already said, there is not a sufficient number of high-class animals bred to meet such a demand. Gradually, however, Irish breeders as they come to have confidence in the schemes, and as they realise that these schemes will be continued from year to year have extended their operations, and therefore every year see not only an increase in the number of high-class sires bred, but an increase in the number of persons who are breeding this class of animals.

The question of securing a fair proportion of the available sires for each county is one which has given the Department very serious thought. As was only natural, the more progressive counties have gone ahead, and have filled their lists from the sires available, with the result that they have left very few for the backward counties. To obviate this the Department have in recent years themselves made purchases of some of the sires available, buying them at their farms in the country, and afterwards selling them to late applicants. By this means it has been possible to secure a fairly good distribution in backward counties. In many parts of the West the small farmers who are not in the habit of travelling long distances to attend bull shows and sales have commissioned the Department to purchase the animals for them.

The action of the Department in this matter of purchasing sires for the backward counties, which had the approval of the Agricultural Board, has, as in the case of many other of their operations been often misunderstood, and they have been soundly abused for their actions, which were not understood by sections of the public at the time. For example, in securing animals for the poorer districts. If the Department purchase in Ireland they are accused of unduly competing with farmers from other districts, and unduly raising the prices; if they purchase in Great Britain they are accused of favouring the British breeders, and ignoring those at home; if they do nothing, they are accused of neglect by the backward counties. The Department have, however, never

APPENDIX IV.

attempted to defend their action in this direction, as they feel that time is necessary for the public to regard their actions in their true light.

In addition to the stallions, bulls and boars located by the County Committees, the Department have since 1904 independent of the County Committees placed a number of sires in the poorer parts of Ireland, mainly in the West. Details of this work will be found in Part II. of this evidence.

SUBSIDIES TO SHOWS.

The schemes which have been described are those for encouraging improvement in live stock as ad-

ministered jointly by the Department and the County Committees. In addition to votes for the live stock scheme, a sum of £4,000 has been voted annually by the Agricultural Board as the Department's contribution to the joint fund administered by County Committees for prizes for live stock at the local agricultural shows. At first the Department themselves prepared a schedule of the conditions under which these prizes were to be given, but for the last four years this work has been delegated entirely to the County Committees themselves. There is no doubt that these shows have an excellent effect upon the improvement of live stock. The Department in most

TABLE SHOWING by COUNTIES the ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

CONGESTED

County.	Interest on Agriculture.	Agriculture Classes.	Poultry.	Butter Making.	Horticulture and Bee-Keeping.	Cottage and Farm Prizes.	Live Stock.	Subsidies to Shows.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donegal, ...	150	—	425	284	158	600	347	280
Sligo, ...	—	100	115	40	100	—	175	200
Leitrim, ...	100	—	145	119	30	700	480	150
Mayo, ...	100	—	180	300	115	240	730	350
Enniscorthy, ...	100	—	150	120	180	187	890	200
Galway, ...	100	—	280	150	200	710	875	250
Kerry, ...	100	—	265	180	175	—	1,300	345
TOTAL , ...	2,150	200	1,850	1,193	1,562	1,642	5,138	1,505

NON-CONGESTED

Armagh, ...	400	200	445	—	100	100	1,800 (a)	270
Down, ...	300	180	280	—	—	85	850	240
Carlow, ...	300	180	157	60	—	30	810	100
Cavan, ...	—	250	404	140	240	180	700	250
Clare, ...	300	—	300	60	—	200	870	110
Co. Wick, ...	1,110 (a)	800	661	354	200	270	3,740	700
Fermanagh, ...	100	200 (a)	324	110	174	150	1,200	300
Galway, ...	211	—	—	—	—	80	700	200
Longford, ...	300	—	175	—	201	54	545	175
Louth, ...	300	100	270	154	201	270	875	240
Monaghan, ...	300	—	350	120	200	110	600	200
Queen's, ...	300	—	300	120	200	110	600	200
Sligo, ...	300	—	300	120	200	110	600	200
Tyrone, ...	300	—	300	120	200	110	600	200
Waterford, ...	300	—	300	120	200	110	600	200
Westmeath, ...	300	—	300	120	200	110	600	200
Wexford, ...	300	—	300	120	200	110	600	200
Wicklow, ...	300	—	300	120	200	110	600	200
TOTAL , ...	5,550	2,820	7,170	2,607	3,802	4,340	18,720	3,765
TOTAL FOR IRELAND , ..	11,500	5,620	9,020	3,800	5,362	5,982	25,860	7,265

(a) Conditional Poultry Scheme, £100. (b) £400 for prizes under Village Scheme. (c) Includes grant of £250 from Dairy Trust Fund.

cases have sought to encourage the creation of small local shows rather than the granting of annual subsidies to large county or provincial shows, and in this the County Committees have in most cases assisted the Department. The number of shows subsidised under this scheme in 1901 was sixty-one; last year this number had more than doubled.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT.

The working of the Act is one of the many duties with which each County Committee charges itself in conjunction with the Department. It is one of the functions of the County Instructor in Agriculture to

keep a careful watch on the nature of the manure and feeding stuffs bought and sold in the county. Acting on such information as he may lodge, the Committee of each county may put the provisions of the Act in force, charging expenses as in all schemes to the joint fund.

COST OF COUNTY SCHEMES.

The amount spent annually on agricultural schemes from 1900-1 to 1905-6 by all the County Committees is set out on page 5. The details of the expenditure estimated and sanctioned for each scheme in each county for 1906-7 is set forth in the accompanying table—

APPENDIX IV.

ON AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES for 1906-7.

COUNTIES.

Year.	Grant for Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.	Administrative, including Secretary's Salaries and Expenses.	Total.	Contribution from Rates.	Contribution from Department.	Rate in the £.	Rate estimated to produce.	County.
£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s.	£	
200	39	422	1,436	1,384 12 0	2,224 8 0	1	1,208	Down.
—	13	235	1,645	458 0 0	987 0 0	1	800	Sligo.
—	3	218	1,665	586 8 0	326 0 0	1	577	Leitrim.
48	16	379	3,765	1,902 0 0	1,503 0 0	1	1,303	Mona.
—	16	224	2,837	745 8 0	1,314 0 0	1	1,238	Donegal.
—	10	225	3,008	1,123 0 0	1,383 8 0	1	954	Galway.
—	15	260	3,350	948 0 0	1,410 8 0	1	1,182	Kerry.
500	69	1,455	37,680 (r)	6,356 12 0	10,832 8 0	—	7,584	Tyrone.

COUNTIES.

390	27	480	7,413	3,418 4 3	1,932 15 7	1	1,245	Armagh.
163	—	375	3,370	568 17 7	1,284 2 5	1	744	Carlow.
—	—	133	1,442	451 0 0	995 8 0	1	850	Cork.
—	6	268	2,569	1,052 17 5	1,239 5 3	1	1,068	Clare.
—	13	223	1,937	650 0 0	1,177 0 0	1	645	Cork.
—	24	626	6,212	2,627 11 5	2,614 8 7	1	2,128	Down.
—	10	360	2,418 (r)	1,355 8 0	1,811 8 8	1	1,203	Dublin.
—	—	181	1,548	544 0 0	890 0 0	1	704	Fermanagh.
36	6	210	1,358	618 4 3	1,065 15 10	1	1,408	Kildare.
—	27	145	2,480	1,610 0 0	1,345 8 0	1	1,484	Kilkenny.
—	6	322	2,444	1,645 0 0	1,502 0 0	1	827	Longford.
—	25	500	1,480	745 0 0	1,155 0 0	1	659	Louth.
—	18	343	2,742	1,129 15 5	1,833 4 7	1	908	Louth.
180	—	270	1,646	846 11 1	959 8 21	1	808	Louth.
—	—	211	1,373	589 0 0	852 0 0	1	806	Louth.
—	27	356	2,593	1,011 0 0	944 0 0	1	1,000	Louth.
—	27	310	2,816	1,242 8 0	1,754 0 0	2	1,680	Louth.
81	6	378	2,347	675 0 0	1,413 0 0	1	1,060	Monaghan.
—	—	282	1,516	627 0 0	672 0 0	1	1,149	Queen's.
—	—	247	2,498	1,059 0 0	1,475 10 10	1	704	Tipperary, N.B.
—	27	384	2,421	823 12 4	1,426 6 8	1	1,713	Tipperary, S.B.
—	6	384	1,637	1,386 15 7	1,637 6 8	1	526	Tyrone.
—	13	280	1,648	642 11 8	1,094 8 7	1	1,306	Wexford.
—	18	225	2,565	1,050 0 0	1,753 0 0	1	1,469	Wick.
—	45	380	3,380	1,804 8 13	1,833 11 2	1	1,864	Wick.
—	27	377	3,184	845 0 0	1,396 8 0	1	1,264	Wick.
902	418	3,065	45,186	23,985 0 2	37,672 18 10	—	23,642	TOTAL.
932	606	13,812	60,527	31,821 15 5	48,815 7 30	—	31,506	TOTAL FOR IRELAND.

(r) For Agricultural Schools.

(r) Estimates of cost of supplementary schemes, details of which are given at page 202.

Agricultural Work supervised direct by the Department.

The foregoing refers mainly to work which the Department delegates to the local authorities, to whom grants are made for the purpose. A number of undertakings which have not been so delegated, but are directed from the central office will now be briefly dealt with.

FORESTRY.

Two aspects of this subject have to be considered, viz., forestry on a large scale involving the planting and management of woods for profit, and tree-planting by the occupiers of land for shelter and ornament. The former is a subject which County Committees, with their limited funds, are not likely to undertake, and though even the planting of trees in waste corners of farms requires a great deal of information, it is very doubtful whether the funds of County Committees are such that they will ever be induced to provide systematic instruction in the subject. The Department have themselves issued a number of leaflets on the subject, and they have given special courses of instruction to their itinerant agricultural and horticulturalists to enable them to advise farmers how and what to plant, and how to manage small plantations.

As has been already explained under the horticultural scheme, County Committees may purchase trees at wholesale prices and sell them at cost price to farmers. A large quantity of trees was thus planted last year, and as the facilities for getting young trees at reduced prices become more known, and, when information can be obtained through the horticultural instructors, there will doubtless be a great number of trees planted in this way, and to this the Department are anxious to give every possible encouragement.

The other aspect of the question, viz., the afforestation of Ireland, is one which concerns the central rather than the local authorities. Obviously the first duty of the Department is to provide education in forestry, for which there has hitherto been no provision whatever in this country. Anticipating a demand for trained foresters, the Department a few years ago purchased Arundale House and demesne, County Wicklow, for the purpose of establishing there a forestry station where young men could receive a training to fit them as working foresters. The lands have been carefully surveyed and laid out in plots to demonstrate the various kinds of planting. A small nursery has also been formed. In Arundale House itself the apprentices reside and receive instruction. They are engaged in practical forestry operations during the day, and receive systematic instruction in the evenings. The course extends over three years, and apprentices are admitted as the result of an entrance examination. In addition to instruction the apprentices receive wages from 16s. to 20s. per week. During the first year their general education is mainly attended to; the second year they receive instruction in the sciences bearing on forestry, while in the third year the instruction is mainly devoted to forestry proper. The school is at present in its third session, and two of the first batch of apprentices are already employed in other parts of the country.

In addition to the demesne at Arundale, which, as already stated, is laid out in forestry demonstration plots, a wooded area of about 240 acres, to be worked in conjunction with the Arundale Forestry Station, has been acquired in the neighbouring county of Wexford, while the woods attached to the Department's other institutions will afford a further opportunity for the practical training of the forestry apprentices.

From time to time landowners and others about to plant large areas have requested the Department to supply technical advice. This the Department have done on a limited scale, but as the demands for advice of this nature are increasing, it is intended that the chief forestry expert, who is mainly engaged in giving instruction at Arundale, will also be available to visit districts in which planting is about to be undertaken to give his advice on the planting and subsequent management of the woods.

The Department have also made a survey of about half the existing woods of Ireland, anticipating under the Land Act of 1903 an opportunity might be afforded of acquiring tracts of second-class lands

which might be planted with a view to meet a future demand for timber. No such opportunities have occurred, however, and in any case the present state of the Department's funds renders it impossible for them to attempt to make any extensive purchases.

To assist them in their forestry operations, the Department have appointed an advisory committee of persons interested in the subject.

FIELD EXPERIMENTS.

As already explained, when dealing with the work of the county agricultural instructor, part of his duty is to carry out field demonstrations and experiments. The instructor himself for the most part initiates field demonstrations as well as a number of experiments suggested by the County Committee, or by the special needs of the locality. In addition to these, it is part of his duty to carry out expressly on behalf of the Department a number of experiments on the manuring of crops, as well as on new varieties of crops which may be described as official experiments. The plan of these experiments is set out in a printed document which can be supplied if desired. A very great deal of time and money have been spent on similar experiments in other countries where each local authority or agricultural institution is engaged in such work, and where each devised and carried out its own set of experiments without any attempt at co-ordination. The result has been the compilation of an enormous mass of figures from which no general results can be drawn owing to the want of uniformity in the plan of experiments. When taking up similar work in Ireland the Department resolved to guard against a like result. Accordingly, the scheme devised in 1901 have been repeated unchanged year by year in a constantly-increasing number of counties, and we are now able to place before the farmers of Ireland a series of figures in which the Department feel some pride. These experiments are of a simple nature intended to teach in the most emphatic manner some of the most elementary, yet badly understood, principles of nature and manuring. Their results have been each year embodied in leaflets which have been distributed over the country, and they have also formed the subjects of a long series of lectures by the itinerant agricultural instructors. The Department are convinced that the influence of the results of these, along with the improvement of the system of manuring crops in Ireland, and on the great increase that has taken place in the use and proper application of artificial manures to the land justify every penny that has been spent on county agricultural instruction. It will not be attempted to explain the principles on which these experiments are based, or on the results which have been arrived at. These furnish material for an extensive course of lectures, and are, therefore, not suited for the present occasion. Suffice it to say, however, that the results are most conclusive, and will form a standard of inference for all time. It may be pointed out that manure manufacturers are now making up their blands in accordance with the teachings of these experiments. It is not claimed that these experiments cover the whole ground, but what has been attempted has been done thoroughly and completely, and it is now intended to start another series which will be carried out in the same manner, but which will have for its object the solution of a different set of problems. The experiments already made cover the principal crops of the farm, viz., oats, potatoes, mangels, turnips and hay. Anyone interested in the manuring of crops will find the results of the experiments not merely instructive, but the safest guide that has ever been offered to the country.

BARLEY-GROWING.

Experiments on the cultivation of barley have not been included among those to which reference has been made. The subject of barley-growing is one in which the well-known firm of Messrs. Arthur Guinness, Son and Co., Ltd., are specially interested, and as this firm desired that the barley experiments should be conducted on particular lines, and as they have contributed two-thirds of the whole cost, considerable attention has been given to their recommendations. The experiments are mainly directed towards determining the best variety of barley for brewing purposes. A special expert is engaged who gives his whole time to the subject, and the experiments have mainly taken the form of cultivation of a number of different

varieties of barley, the trial of different manures. The produce of the plots is afterwards treated in an experimental brewhouse on Messrs. Guinness's premises. As the experiments now stand, we have arrived at a conclusion that one barley yields better results than all others, and the experiment is now being directed towards determining the best district from which Irish farmers should get the seed of this quality.

EARLY POTATO-GROWING.

In addition to encouraging improvement in the existing crops grown in the country, the Department have sought to introduce a few new industries, either agricultural or subsidiary to ordinary agricultural practices—these are—early potato-growing, fruit-growing; fruit and vegetable drying and preserving, post-making, tobacco-growing, cheese-making, and the cranning and fattening of poultry.

A brief survey of the agriculturists of Ireland, which was made in 1900, convinced the Department that, compared with the conditions under which early potato-growing was carried on so profitably in parts of Scotland, and in one, or perhaps two, districts of Ireland, the conditions prevailing in nearly other parts of Ireland were far more favourable for this industry. The production of early potatoes, however, is more in the nature of market gardening than ordinary agriculture, and requires enterprise, a readiness to adopt new methods, and business capacity. Part of the cultivation of the potato must be done in houses in the home during the winter months. Where the situation is favourable, the land well manured, the seed properly prepared, the crop suitably harvested and marketing facilities good, very remunerative prices can be obtained; while the land is cleared sufficiently early to enable an ordinary farm crop to be taken off the field during the same season. The action of the Department has been confined to surveying the country for suitable districts, supplying free of charge small quantities of seed and manure for demonstration purposes, giving technical advice in the growing and harvesting of the crop and putting the growers into touch with the various markets. Some very excellent results have been obtained from this crop in Ireland. In four districts now a number of farmers knew the business thoroughly; the profitable nature of the crop has been amply demonstrated, and it now only remains to be seen what the farmers will do for themselves. Hitherto the cost of growing this crop in Ireland has been very high, due to the comparatively small area yet under crop, the want of experience, unnecessary cost of seed and disclaim from market. Reports of each year's operations have appeared in the Department's Journal.

The work of the Department in this direction has attracted considerable attention in the British potato markets, and several centres of early potato-growing in Great Britain are becoming uneasy with regard to the competition from Ireland.

BOXING ORDINARY SEED POTATOES.

The Department have also tested the effect of treating the ordinary main crop potato of the country in a manner similar to that of the early potato crop, that is to say, by boxing the seed for a period before it is planted. This system has been experimented on by the county instructors all over Ireland, and has been extraordinarily successful. The system of boxing potatoes has been used to such an extent, and is increasing so rapidly, that the making of the trays or boxes for the treatment of the seed, which at first had to be imported, has now become an industry in the country, and indeed so well and cheaply can they be made here that large quantities of them are now exported to the early potato-growing districts of Great Britain by Irish box-makers.

The experiments, which have now extended over three seasons, show conclusively that by boxing an increase of two tons per statute acre may be safely relied on. This increase is equal to about \$4 per statute acre, while the boxes cost only 3s. per statute acre, and with care will last many years. Many leading farmers have now adopted this new system. Not only does it yield a larger crop, but by bringing the crop to maturity earlier than under the old system damage from blight is very much reduced.

IRISH SEED POTATOES IN ENGLAND.

APPENDIX IV.

The Department have recently carried their experiments into England and Wales, where they have shown that Irish seed yields as good crops as Scottish seed, and that it is greatly superior to seed raised in England. The results of these experiments have led to the formation of an Irish potato-growers' society, the object of which is to develop a trade in seed potatoes with England.

FRUIT-GROWING.

In dealing with the work of the local committees, some of the efforts which the Department have made to encourage fruit-growing in Ireland have been referred to. The establishment at the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin, of a horticultural school for the training of experts and instructors to work under the county authorities, and the work of these authorities in connection with the Horticultural schemes, the sale of fruit trees at cost price to farmers, and the inspection of fruit trees for the prevention and cure of disease have been mentioned. There are, however, mainly intended to encourage cottage gardening and fruit-growing for home consumption.

It is now intended to deal with the work which the Department have been and are still administering centrally. In parts of the North of Ireland fruit is grown as an ordinary farm crop. With a view to determining the capabilities of other districts of the country in this direction a survey has been made by a horticultural expert and a comparison made of the conditions in non-fruit-growing districts of Ireland with those in the fruit-growing districts both of Ireland and of Great Britain. The Department further organised at Cork in 1902, and at Dublin in 1904, a large show of Irish-grown fruit. These shows were made the occasion for bringing together fruit merchants from Great Britain and Ireland, Irish fruit growers and those who have a special knowledge of this branch of horticulture. The conclusion arrived at was that Ireland was particularly suited for the growing of certain classes of fruits, particularly apples, not merely for home production and consumption, but as a regular farm crop for the British markets. The problem then arose as to how this fact could be best demonstrated in the non-fruit-growing districts. It is obviously impossible for the small farmer to compete in the British markets with the produce from his small garden. It is equally impossible to make an impression by merely marketing the produce of a number of gardens. What is wanted is the produce of a large well-managed area of fruit, of the proper varieties, well grown, properly packed and marketed on the most up-to-date conditions. To secure this the Department, with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board undertook to supply, free of cost, fruit trees in twenty-acre lots at a limited number of selected centres. Each plot to be one statute acre in extent, provided twenty farmers, each growing one acre, were prepared, at their own expense, to fence the land, plant the trees, care for them, pack and market the fruit in accordance with the instructions of an expert whose whole time was placed at their disposal for a period of five years. It is also a condition of the experiments that the farmer keeps an accurate record of all expenditure and receipts in connection with his plot, and this information will be available for others who desire to take up fruit-growing on commercial lines. During this period the Department undertook to pay half the carriage of the produce to any market in the United Kingdom. Under this scheme over 100 acres have been planted. The produce of the orchards which were first planted in 1903 has been placed successfully on the market.

In connection with this work the Department have also given a very great deal of attention to establishing a system of grading fruit for the market as well as to the choice of standard packages. These are now made by the Irish box-makers. To encourage their use the Department insisted on the fruit forwarded to their shows being packed in them; and they will be used in the marketing of the fruit from the special fruit plots which have been allotted to. The Department have published full particulars regarding this system of packing which has been highly approved of by the fruit merchants and which has been adopted by horticultural societies in Great Britain as the best system in vogue.

APPENDIX IV

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DRYING AND PRESERVING.

While there is an excellent opportunity for growing fruit as a farm crop in Ireland, it is only possible to do so successfully if the aim is the production of the maximum amount of fruit for sale in large towns for immediate consumption. If fruit-growing as an industry were properly established there must naturally be produced at the same time a quantity of second and third-class fruit for the preservation of which in some form or another provision must be made. The Department, therefore, gave a good deal of consideration to the possibility of starting industries for the disposal of second-class fruit in such districts where fruit is grown. There is only one outlet for the inferior soft fruits, viz., jam-making, and for apples, cider-making, an industry which had all but died out in Ireland. Jam-making, however, already existed in the country, and in one district—Drogheda—where a large quantity of fruit was grown and where no means were available for disposing of the second-class products, the Department encouraged the establishment of a co-operative jam factory, and went so far as to grant a loan to the promoters for the erection of the necessary equipment. Unfortunately, however, the business did not turn out a success. In the meantime the Department had devoted attention to other forms of fruit-preserving which did not already exist in Ireland and to which, therefore, no exception could be taken on the score of competition with private enterprise, nor was there any legal objection from the point of view of the Act, this being an industry subsidiary to agriculture. The industry took the form of preserving or drying whole fruit, and for this purpose the Department established at Portadown, which is in the vicinity of a large fruit-growing area, a properly equipped factory, engaged a technical staff, and interested a number of local capitalists in the concern. The business, at first, of the Department was to demonstrate the methods, to test the products in the different markets, and to train foremen and workers. When this had been accomplished it was the Department's intention to hand the concern over to be worked by private capital. The factory was worked by the Department for two years. During the first season the concern was little more than a school and a great many difficulties had to be overcome, the chief of which was that machinery had to be erected for the manufacture of tins for canning the fruit. In the second year, however, the workers having been fairly well trained, a large quantity of fruits were preserved and placed on the market. At this time serious objections were raised by the grocery and confectionery trade as to the Department's alleged competition, and having regard to the fact that the Department had accomplished their object, they invited a number of private firms to take up these industries and offered them the free use for one or two years of the experts and workers whom the Department had trained. The result briefly is as follows:—

The tins-making plant was disposed of on favourable terms to a firm in Belfast who now make this class of goods for fruit preservers. Three jam-making firms have added fruit preserving to their business, and another has undertaken the drying of vegetables on a large scale. A company was formed who built a factory and took over the Department's cider-making plant, and finally the Department, having taken over the unsuccessful jam factory at Drogheda and running it for a season or two as a fruit preserving business, sold the concern to a company who are now running it as a fruit preserving and jam manufactory. The Department have also assisted in the revival of the cider-making industry in the South of Ireland by the giving of the services of experienced cider makers free of charge for one season.

CHEESE-MAKING.

Notwithstanding the fact that Ireland is pre-eminently a dairying country, cheese is not one of her exports. That this product is an article which is made in great quantities in England and Scotland where the conditions are less favourable than in Ireland was a fact which the Department early in its career made careful inquiries into, and they found that an extraordinary idea prevailed that Irish milk could not be made into cheese. To prove this idea and to demonstrate the process of cheese-making the Department rented a farm in County Cork and proceeded to equip thereon a cheese-making dairy. This

dairy has been at work for six years, during which time nearly all the milk of the farm has been converted into cheese, which has been sold at excellent prices mainly in the Glasgow market, where its quality has been pronounced to be excellent. The Department have not, however, attempted to urge on Irish farmers the general adoption of this industry for the following reasons:—

1. Much more technical skill is required in the manufacture of cheese than in the case of butter, and we have not yet arrived at a stage when it can be said with confidence that those engaged in the dairying industry in Ireland have a high technical training.

2. The manufacture of cheese requires not only greater technical skill, but stricter cleanliness than is required in butter-making.

3. The risk in the manufacture of cheese is greater, and more capital is required than in the manufacture of butter, owing to the fact that cheese has to be stored for some months to ripen before it can be sold and converted into cash.

4. While cheese can be successfully made in factories the highest qualities are made in private dairies, the great majority of which in Ireland are not large enough to warrant the expense of a proper cheese-making equipment.

5. Finally, cheese-making is incompatible with the rearing of store cattle, as there is no by-product as in the case of butter-making on which calves can be reared, and the Irish farmer is so wedded to calf rearing and cattle dealing that so long as he can live at this industry it would be very difficult to induce him to undertake cheese-making, which though more profitable requires much harder work and closer personal attention. A few people have started the industry and sufficient has been done to demonstrate that first-class cheese can be manufactured in Ireland, and that it can be easily and quickly introduced as an industry in the event of the collapse of the store stock or the butter trade.

The price obtained for the milk when made into cheese has proved to be much higher than could have been obtained if it were applied to rearing calves, and more than could be got for butter-making. It has averaged between 5d. and 5d. per gallon, exclusive of the value of the by-product whey, which is reckoned to be equal to 2d. per cow, and to cover the cost of manufacture.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION.

The question of the growth of tobacco as a farm crop in Ireland was taken up in this country by the Department in 1900. A French expert was obtained in 1900, and tobacco was grown on small plots in ten centres, and the crops cured at one of the Department's farms. The results of these experiments showed that tobacco which could be manufactured into a smoking mixture could be grown in Ireland. To induce farmers to grow the crop on a commercial scale, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has, on the recommendation of the Department, agreed to allow a rebate of the duty for a period of ten years, amounting to 1s. per lb., to certain farmers recommended by the Department. In 1904, the Department secured for the season the services of an American expert, and they have now been fortunate in securing the services for five years of another American expert who will give his whole time to this work. The Department have also erected, at great expense, three curing barns. In 1905, thirty-nine acres were grown. In 1906, the area was seventy-seven and a half acres, while in 1907 the maximum area allowed, viz., 80, will probably be taken up.

THE PEAT INDUSTRY.

The Department have given special attention to the question of the utilisation of bogs in Ireland. Their operations have been directed to two aspects of the question, viz., the manufacture of fuel and the manufacture of peat moss litter. Continental methods have been carefully studied and reported upon, and such improvements on existing Irish methods as appeared to the Department to be advantageous, have been, or will be, demonstrated. More than one Continental expert has been employed to examine Irish bogs, and acting on their advice the Department rented a bog in the centre of Ireland where they have erected peat fuel machinery and demonstrated the most successful Continental process.

FATTENING OF POULTRY.

This special work has already been referred to, and comprises the training of experts at the Department's poultry station at Avondale, the payment for one year of an expert in cases where private capital is invested in the business, and assistance in marketing the produce.

In all these sections of agricultural work controlled direct from the central office the assistance of the Department is confined to the following—Demonstration of the process; education of the workers; supplying of technical advice; granting of loans where the Department are legally empowered to do so; and assistance in marketing the produce.

Reference will now be made to some work which has been undertaken by the central authority in connection with the dairying industry. The work which has been done to encourage and improve home dairying under the local authorities has already been described. The improvement in the management of creameries, however, is a subject which has, so far, been administered from the central office.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CREAMERIES.

There are now in Ireland many hundreds of creameries, which are either co-operative, joint stock, or proprietary concerns. The creamery system has been subjected to a great deal of criticism, on the somewhat strange plea that it reduces labour at the farm, and that it has an injurious effect upon the stock. The latter will be dealt with presently, and as to the former, it is not considered necessary to discuss the general question of the suitability of creameries. They are now an institution, and it is clearly the duty of the Department to leave no stone unturned in order to improve the quality of the product by every means in their power. These creameries are by no means what they ought to be, nor do they compare at all favourably with the creameries of some other countries. There can be no doubt whatever that if the milk were supplied and handled at the creamery under proper conditions there is no country in the world which could turn out a more marketable commodity. Nevertheless, while some of the Irish butter is excellent, and commands a high price, a great portion is often far from what it could be. The managers of the creameries are, no doubt, often blamed for this state of things, but it is only fair to them to say that they have had little opportunity so far of receiving a good practical or technical training; they are badly paid, the equipment provided for them is often very defective, and the milk is often supplied in a very unclean and unsatisfactory condition, for which the manager has seldom a remedy, seeing that the supplier is oftentimes his master. Further, as the milk is nearly all produced in summer, the manager loses his customers in winter, when the creamery is often closed. The Department have no power to compel the farmers to supply milk in winter, or to supply clean milk; neither have they power to compel owners of creameries to provide better equipment, but they have taken steps which are calculated to effect a great improvement in this important industry, and these have been now embodied in a general scheme, copies of which can be supplied if required. This scheme, which is estimated to cost for the present year (1906) a sum of about \$5,000, voted by the Agricultural Board, comprises—(a) inspection and registration of creameries and auxiliaries; (b) supervision by visiting instructors; (c) winter courses in dairy technology for managers; (d) an annual examination for creamery managers' certificates; and (e) surprise butter competitions. Brief reference will be made to each of these heads in the order given.

Inspection and Registration.—Two inspectors are employed on this work. Each year the owners of all creameries are invited to apply to the Department to have their management recognised as efficient, and as suitable for the training of pupils. As a result of this inspection, the Department publish a register of well-managed creameries, and most managers are ambitious to have their creameries included in this list. A large number of creameries offer their management for inspection and registration, and the Department's inspectors are instructed to examine into their methods, book-keeping, buildings, equipment, and suitability for training pupils. A list of registered creameries for last year will be found in the printed scheme.

Supervision.—In addition to the two inspectors, the Department also employ four travelling instructors in dairying (now to be increased in number), whose duty it is to visit periodically and in rotation the creameries which apply for their services for the purpose of giving technical advice on all the operations connected with creamery management. Altogether 386 creameries are at present on the list of those visited by the instructors. Of these creameries 166 are entered for registration this year.

Special Courses of Instruction.—The programme at the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin, has been so arranged as to suit students who intend to become creamery managers, and the Department encourage intending managers to take one of these courses. In addition, they have during the winter, when the creameries are mostly closed, special courses in engineering, horticulture and dairy technology. This year three courses, each attended by about thirty managers, and each lasting three weeks, have been arranged. The Department pay the expenses of the managers to and from Dublin, and give a maintenance allowance of £2 when in attendance at the course. The instruction is, of course, free.

The provision of a special school for the instruction of creamery managers has often been under the consideration of the Department. Such a school, however, would necessitate the running of a creamery by the Department, a class of work which it is not desirable should be undertaken by a Government Department. There is such a large annual demand for apprentices that it would require a huge creamery to accommodate them all if they were to receive training in the working of the machinery and in business management. Again, there has been such a demand for agricultural teachers that the Department's scientific staff have had more than they could properly accomplish in the training of teachers of purely agricultural subjects. Finally, the Department are of opinion that the best method of training creamery managers is the system under which young men are taken for the purpose by the best-equipped creameries and taught their business by managers who have already had a good technical training. A few such creameries have already adopted this plan, and it ought to be the ambition of every creamery manager to have his creamery sufficiently well-managed to become practically a school.

Creamery Managers' Certificates.—In order to encourage private study among managers, and to set up a standard at which they might aim, the Department annually hold an examination, the syllabus of which is set forth in the scheme. On the result of this examination a provisional certificate is awarded to those who succeed in attaining a certain standard. A full creamery manager's certificate is awarded to successful candidates who, during the season immediately preceding the examination, have managed registered creameries. This certificate can be obtained by the holder of a provisional certificate when he has managed a creamery for a period of twelve months to the satisfaction of the Department. The full certificates are renewable annually, provided the holder continues to manage their creameries to the satisfaction of the Department.

Surprise Butter Competitions.—The objects of these competitions are to induce creamery managers, as well as the dairymaids in the creameries, to give every attention to the details of packing the butter, and particularly to absolute cleanliness in every stage of the work. The competitions are conducted in the following manner:—On not more than eight and not less than five occasions during the season the Department forward, without notice, a telegram to each manager entered for competition requesting him to send to an address in Dublin a box or packet of butter, made on the day on which the telegram is despatched. The butter is housed in a store in Dublin, and four judges, three of whom are usually representatives of the principal markets of Great Britain and one from Ireland, are invited to examine the butter, and award prizes on a specified scale of points. The Department award £3 each to the first prize lot, and £1 each to the second prize lots. The butter is sold after the competition. The creameries are paid for the butter at the current market price for the various classes of butter, as determined by the judges. To the dairymaid who made each first prize lot of butter a sum of 10s. is also awarded. At the end of the season the manager obtaining the highest number of prizes is awarded £10, the second £5, and

APPENDIX IV.

the third &c. To these competitions the Department bring a large number of creamery managers in order that they may have an opportunity of seeing and comparing the various butters submitted for competition, the Department paying in part their expenses in all cases. Advantage is also taken of these competitions to ascertain by analysis the quality of the butter from the various districts.

OTHER METHODS OF IMPROVING CREAMERIES.

In addition to the foregoing, the Department assist creamery management in the following ways:—

1. By undertaking investigations into the methods of improving butter-making. This is usually carried on by their inspectors in conjunction with some of the leading creamery managers.
2. Furnishing copies of plans and specifications for buildings and machinery. A copy of the leaflet issued on this subject is submitted herewith.
3. Experiments and investigations into the disposal of creamery sewage. These investigations have mostly taken the form of the application of the septic tank system for the disposal of creamery sewage. Extensive experiments of this nature have been in operation for several years in the North of Ireland at the Department's expense, with very gratifying results.
4. Loans for the erection of Pasteurising plant. A number of such loans have been issued, and are being satisfactorily repaid in most cases.
5. Investigation with reference to the best kind of butter package. For this purpose the Department held a conference with box and log makers, and creamery managers, as a result of which investigations are at present in progress.
6. Investigations are also being made as to the use of pure cultures of bacteria in the ripening of cream.

OUTBREAKS OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS.

With the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act the Agricultural Branch is not concerned. To it, however, belongs the duty of investigating outbreaks of disease in stock which occur from time to time. County Committees have not yet added an instructor of veterinary hygiene to those which they already employ. So far they have been content to avail themselves of a veterinary surgeon whom the Department has regularly employed to give lectures on the subject and to investigate outbreaks of disease.

The principal investigation which has so far been made in this direction is that connected with white scour in calves, which some years ago assumed alarming proportions in County Limerick and the neighbouring counties. So serious was this matter that the Department undertook to make a special investigation of the cause, and for the purpose they availed themselves of the kind offer of the French Government to place at their disposal the services of the eminent veterinarian, the late Professor Nocard of Paris. They equipped a laboratory for him at Limerick where, assisted by a large staff of experts, he carried out investigations on an extensive scale. The results showed that the disease which had hitherto been attributed to the creameries, was entirely due to the presence of a micro-organism which is found about udders, premises, and enters the circulation system of the calf at the time of birth. A staff of instructors was employed by the Department to demonstrate the method of treatment of the animals which Professor Nocard recommended, with the result that the treatment was proved to be highly successful. The Department also rented a farm on which all the calves had previously died of the disease, but they were entirely successful in demonstrating Professor Nocard's findings, and utterly disproving the fallacy that the disease was due to the skim milk supplied by the creameries.

A serious outbreak of a somewhat similar character occurred some years ago in the County Wexford and was brought before the notice of the Department at a meeting of the Council of Agriculture. The Agricultural Board voted the necessary funds for the equipment of a cattle infirmary in the county, and for the placing of a highly-qualified veterinary surgeon in charge of the investigations. These investigations are at present in progress, and the results yielded so far are likely to lead to the prevention of the disease.

A new method of treatment for the prevention of what is known in Scotland as "Braxy," and in Ireland as "Redwater" in sheep have been reported. The Department are engaged in an extensive test of the merit of the alleged preventive. If successful it will confer a great boon on sheep-owners in the Wicklow, Antrim, and Donagh Mountains, where this form of disease is especially prevalent.

Other serious outbreaks of disease causing great loss to stock owners have been dealt with by the Department centrally, the principal of these are abortion, blackleg, redwater, and calf diphtheria, but it is not proposed to enter into the details of the investigations of these diseases.

TECHNICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

One of the functions which the Department's officers are called upon to perform, and which has always been a serious claim upon their time, is that of replying to queries from farmers with regard to the practical operations of the farm. During the first years of the Department's work the Assistant Secretary undertook this work with the help of the agricultural inspectors. As itinerant instructors were appointed, it was hoped that farmers would apply to them for information instead of to the central office, but although these instructors themselves replied last year to something like 85,000 communications, the demand in this direction on the Department's staff increases rather than diminishes. Nothing reflects more accurately the great amount of thought that is being stirred up in the agricultural community of Ireland than the demand which exists, and which is annually increasing, for information of this kind. These questions deal mainly with agricultural subjects, and may be roughly classed as follows:—Live stock, crops, soils, manures and feeding stuffs, dairying, poultry, horticulture, &c.

In many cases the Department seek to supply this want by sending pioneer lecturers to districts where special advice seems necessary. These lecturers, which are independent of those given by itinerant instructors, are paid for wholly by the Department, although the local arrangements are made by the county secretaries. About 500 such lectures were given last year.

Another evidence of the interest which is being aroused in the country upon agricultural subjects is the demand which exists for literature dealing with farm operations. From time to time the Department are so inundated with demands for information on some special subject that it has been found necessary to prepare a special leaflet to allay the demand on such a subject. Great care is taken in the preparation and issue of these leaflets. The leaflets which have been issued so far are shown in the list submitted herewith. While they are prepared by the Agricultural Branch, they are distributed by another branch of the Department which reports that of each issue no less than 12,000 have to be sent to persons who expect to be supplied with each leaflet as it is published.

SEED TESTING.

The Department have established for Ireland a Seed Testing Station to which farmers for a nominal fee of threepence per sample can send their seeds to be tested. Interim and final reports are issued in respect of each sample. In every country there is great need for care in the selection of seeds for all purposes, but in a country like Ireland, where the farms are small, and where the person who supplies the seed is generally a small shopkeeper, there is all the more necessity for keeping a watch on this trade. Considerable advantage has been taken of the station, as will be seen from the following table of the number of samples tested since 1901, i.e., since the station was started:—

1901.	367
1902.	488
1903.	712
1904.	1,041
1905.	1,536
1906.	1,478

It is part of the duty of the agricultural instructor to take samples in the county from time to time and to have them tested at the station.

POTATO SPRAYING.

Similarly with regard to potato-spraying, the Department have made arrangements that farmers, for the sum of threepence, can have a sample of copper sulphate or carbonate of soda analysed, these being the materials used for potato spraying.

The Department have taken further steps to bring seasonal operations before the notice of farmers. They have arranged for 1,800 notice boards to be exhibited at the various police barracks throughout the country to which are affixed posters issued by the Department dealing with seasonal operations, and urging farmers to take proper action in due time.

There are many other operations which the Agricultural Branch undertake, which need not be referred to in detail, such for example as the granting of loans for the erection of village halls, &c.

II.

Working of the Act in Congested Districts.

The figures which have been submitted, showing the amount of work undertaken by the County Committees during the last six years, are a complete justification for the system of administration through local representative bodies. In the early years progress was slow, but as the procedure became understood there has been a rapid increase in the volume as well as in the quality of the work done. Of the thirty-three County Committees only one or two have held back, while in all the others there has been as increase not only in the work as a whole, but in every section of it.

In this part of the evidence attention is directed specially to the seven counties mainly congested, viz., Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Galway and Kerry. For the sake of clearness Cork and Clare are omitted, as the non-congested portions of these two counties being very high, to include them would only obscure the picture.

The system adopted by the Department with regard to these counties was in the early years the same as for the whole of the rest of Ireland, viz., the administration of schemes through the local authorities. But in these districts there are difficulties to be overcome which did not present themselves in the rest of the country, and if the County Committees of these seven counties, notwithstanding these difficulties, have made progress proportionate to that of other counties, there is the more credit due to them. As a matter of fact it may be said at once that notwithstanding the special difficulties of the situation, the progress in the work that has been attained in all these counties—as will be shown directly by figures—will bear comparison with that of other counties where the people live under more favourable conditions.

There are two distinct periods to be considered—first the period before, and secondly, the period since 1904. Any representative institution which could come through the complications and confusions which arose owing to the wording of the Act creating the Department, must have in it a vitality capable of surmounting any administrative difficulty that can possibly arise. The difficulty was caused by what appears to have been at oversight in the drafting of the Act of 1900. It has already been referred to by the Vice-President of the Department, and need only be very briefly mentioned here. The situation was this—the Department's agricultural endowment of £100,000 was earmarked for the non-congested portions of Ireland, and could not therefore be applied to an area scheduled as congested. Neither could the Department apply funds to a district in respect of which a rate was not raised for the purposes of their Act. But the unit of area adopted in scheduling a district as congested (an electoral division) was not co-extensive with the unit of rating under the Local Government Act (a rural district). Some way had to be found out of the difficulty, and it was accordingly decided to raise the rate for the purpose of the Department's work over the non-congested and mainly non-congested rural districts, and to exclude the congested and mainly congested rural districts.

In accordance therewith the non-congested portions of the mainly congested rural districts were excluded from the rate and from the purview of the County Committee, while the congested portions of the mainly non-congested districts were rated, but could receive no funds from the Department. To obviate this difficulty as far as possible, the Congested Districts Board agreed to contribute *pro rata* in respect of the congested portions of the areas included in the districts over which a rate was raised. This arrangement, which was the only practical one in the circumstances, gave rise to a great deal of correspondence between the three bodies concerned, viz., the Department, the Congested Districts Board and the County Committees of Agriculture. The County Committees' schemes had to be sanctioned by the Congested Districts Board, as they were contributing in respect of the congested districts, while the whole schemes of the County Committees had likewise to be sanctioned by the Department. Lengthy correspondence was entailed by this procedure, and overlapping with the schemes of the Congested Districts Board in the congested portions of the mainly non-congested rural districts could not be avoided. The situation was further complicated by the fact that County Councils from the congested rural districts could attend meetings of the County Councils and if they thought proper vote against proposals for raising a rate, and so block all schemes in the non-congested portions of the county. Many members of County Committees failed to understand the meaning of the procedure, and the people of the localities concerned were wholly bewildered by it.

In 1902 an Act was passed enabling County Councils to include all non-congested, and to exclude all congested, electoral divisions from the rate. The Congested Districts Board concluded that there were serious practical objections to two independent schemes for similar work being carried out concurrently in the same district, and they therefore intimated to the County Councils that in future the Board would discontinue their contribution towards schemes of the County Committees. In November of the following year, however, the Land Act came into operation, and Clause 85 of this Act repealed Section 35 of the Act of 1900. It was therefore no longer illegal for the Department to spend money in congested areas. It was obvious however, that if the Congested Districts Board and the County Committees continued to apply funds for the same purpose, overlapping and confusion would arise. But this difficulty was obviated by the fact that the Congested Districts Board in October, 1903, decided that their funds, hitherto applied to agricultural development should in future be diverted from that purpose and be applied to the primary purpose of land purchase and the relief of congestion.

This question has already been dealt with by the Vice-President of the Department, and it is therefore unnecessary to go into it in great detail on the present occasion. The evidence that has been given, however, particularly that from Donegal, shows that many of the witnesses do not yet seem to fully understand the situation as it existed previous to or since 1904. Moreover, none of the witnesses in comparing the work of the County Committees and of the Congested Districts Board appeared to understand the arrangement which was come to with that Board in October, 1903, and which is set forth in Mr. Wyndham's minute which is printed in the Appendix to the First Report of the Royal Commission. In this connection, therefore, it may be permitted to ask the Commission to bear in mind the following facts:—

1. In 1904 the Congested Districts Board had been at work twelve years, and the County Committees only two or three years.

2. The work of the seven County Committees is rapidly increasing in volume as will be shown presently. It would have been greater to-day but for (1) the confusion created by the operations of two public bodies during the first year, and (2) the fact that the people in those districts had for twelve years been accustomed to seek and obtain relief and assistance from a central department and that time must be given them to get accustomed to the change brought about by the introduction of representative institutions.

3. The Congested Districts Board had a sum for the improvement of agriculture in the congested districts very much greater than that available to

APPENDIX IV.

County Committee. On agricultural development alone the Board spent £11,000 per annum, but only £2,000 of this sum was given to the Department to carry on the work.

4. In Mr. Wyndham's memorandum, to which reference has been made, it is stated that as "the primary work of the Congested Districts Board 'as completed further funds will be available for 'pushing on the secondary work of Agriculture and 'Technical Instruction.' " Until this policy has been carried out, or until the Department obtains funds from some other source, no comparison can be fairly instituted between the work of the County Committees and the work formerly done by the Congested Districts Board.

5. The Congested Districts Board concurred in the policy outlined in the memorandum in question. In this document it is specifically stated that "they" (the congested districts) would have to surrender "in respect of agricultural schemes a part of their 'right to preferential treatment' until the primary work of land purchase and relief of congestion had been effected.

6. It was on this understanding, viz., that the congested districts would, for a time, have to forgo part of their right to preferential treatment in respect of agricultural improvement and that in due course further funds would be "available for pushing on the secondary work of agriculture and 'technical instruction," that the Agricultural Board agreed to the proposals contained in Mr. Wyndham's minute. They were aware that the sum of £2,000 was quite inadequate to meet the additional contribution from the Department towards expenditure by local authorities in respect of the congested areas, but in order to simplify procedure and to remove one of the greatest barriers to progress, viz., the confusion that has arisen in the minds of the people, the Agricultural Board cheerfully agreed to vote a sum to make the county schemes complete.

7. A comparison has also been made between the work of the Parish Committees and that of the County Committee. Parish Committees, however, have been in existence for five or six years, and their work was not considered successful at first—until the people had become accustomed to the scheme. Moreover, the Congested Districts Board spent in congested areas as much on their Parish Committee scheme alone (£11,345), as the seven County Committees receive in contributions from the Department (£10,683) to spend on their ten schemes in both the congested and non-congested districts. Indeed the joint fund in County Mayo for ten schemes amounts only to £2,745, while the Congested Districts Board vote for the Parish Committee scheme in that county is a sum of £3,480.

In this connection it should be stated that the Agricultural Board never for a moment contemplated that the Congested Districts Board would direct or Parish Committees for agricultural development any portion of the funds, which it was stated (in Mr. Wyndham's minute were firstly to be applied to the 'primary work of land purchase and the relief of congestion, and according as this work was being completed, was secondly to be 'available for pushing on the secondary work of agriculture and technical instruction.' In justice to the Department and to the Agricultural Board, it is hoped that the members of the Commission will have due regard to these facts, which appear to have been wholly absent from the minds of many of the witnesses who have already given evidence.

There can be no doubt, however, as to the nature of the arrangement which was come to in 1903 between the Congested Districts Board on the one hand and the Department and the Agricultural Board on the other. Mr. Wyndham's minute is perfectly clear, and that it was clearly interpreted by the Department and the Agricultural Board is shown by the reply of the Vice-President as well as the minute of the Agricultural Board at their meeting on the 19th July, 1906, which is printed on page 278 of the Appendix to the First Report of this Commission.

For three reasons this arrangement has been in operation, and during that time the policy of the Department has been to develop their statutory relations with the County Committees of Agriculture. The County Council of each of the counties has annually raised its rate and carried on a number of schemes

applicable to the whole administrative county. It was apparent, at an early stage, however, that, owing to the previous history of the congested districts, which had so long been accustomed to look to a central body for assistance, it would be necessary to supplement the work of the County Committees in the poorer districts. Accordingly the Agricultural Board provided additional funds, and the Department, through its inspectors, who are always in close touch with the work of the County Committees have aided the poorer districts with schemes supplementary to those of the Committees. By this means districts, which would otherwise have been neglected, have received a certain amount of assistance. The funds at the disposal of the Department, however, for these supplementary schemes are far too limited to enable them to duplicate all the schemes of the County Committees, and it was therefore decided to confine the expenditure of such money as could be spared to that section of the work which was most appreciated, and which was likely to yield the most immediate return. No one will doubt that of all the schemes, that which made provision for sires, particularly bulls and boars, is what the people most appreciate and require, and it has accordingly been mainly in the introduction of these sires, as well as stallions, jacks, and rams, that the Department have supplemented the County Committees' schemes.

During the first year of the new arrangement the withdrawal of the money from the agricultural schemes was not so severely felt in the congested districts, as many of the bulls and boars supplied by the Congested Districts Board still remained there. As these sires diminished, however, the Department have, so far as circumstances permitted, introduced new sires to take their place.

Year by year the pressing needs of these districts have been increasingly brought home to the Department. The inadequacy of the funds at their disposal has been represented to the Agricultural Board from time to time, and, in the firm belief that more ample funds will be forthcoming for the development of agriculture in these districts in the manner to be described in the third part of this evidence, the Agricultural Board, at their last meeting, to mark their appreciation of the needs of the districts, voted an additional sum of £4,000 for the current year. It must be pointed out, however, that the application of this sum for one year can have but little beneficial effect unless it is to be followed up by at least an equal grant in succeeding years.

With regard to the other schemes, Sligo is the only county which has sufficiently advanced to start agricultural classes. Horticultural instruction is given in all the counties except Leitrim and Donegal; Donegal also is the only county which does not give instruction in bee-keeping, poultry-keeping, and dairying; all the counties contribute to shows; and all but Kerry have a farm and cottage prize scheme. Most attention, however, has been given to the improvement of live stock, and with the exception of Mayo, which did not adopt the Act in the first year, all the counties have annually taken up the live stock scheme, and all have contributed to the prizes for stock at local shows.

Of the schemes of the County Committees, the Department have supplemented those dealing with improvement of cattle, horses, and swine, and instruction in agriculture and bee-keeping. The schemes which have not been supplemented are instruction in horticulture and butter-making, and the improvement of cottages and small farms by means of prizes. On the other hand the Department have rendered a certain amount of assistance which is not duplicated by County Committees, namely, the placing out of forty-one jackasses and ninety-four rams, and the giving of loans for fencing.

One form of instruction which is very necessary in these districts and for which special provision should be made is that which would have a direct effect upon the standard of living. Anticipating the time when, in accordance with Mr. Wyndham's minute, additional funds would be forthcoming for agricultural development in backward districts, the Department have started, by way of experiment and demonstration, two schools for girls—one at Loughgrym and the other at Westport. The primary aim of these schools is to provide for a class of instruction which cannot be conveniently given by itinerant

teachers since it includes practical operations, such as gardening, milking, the rearing and feeding of poultry, calves, and pigs, and similar work, which is usually performed by the women of the house and which is included in the term *farmyard-work*. At Loughglin, the girls assist during the day and return to their homes in the evening. The objects and nature of this instruction will best be understood from the tentative scheme under which the school was started. This is as follows:—

BRAN-AN-TIGHE CLASSES.

1. In certain districts, chiefly where there exists a large population of small farmsteads and cottages, the Department are prepared to supplement itinerant instruction in Agriculture, Dairying, Poultry-keeping, Horticulture, Bee-keeping, Rural Domestic Economy and Cottage Industries by assisting in the formation of Rural Centres where girls and young women may receive instruction and helpful guidance in their home work.

2. A Rural Centre, for the purposes of this scheme, may be the home of a religious community or of a private individual, provided there be at least one woman in charge to act as superintendent, who is prepared to devote herself to developing improvement in the home life of the neighbourhood. She must possess a practical acquaintance with the needs of small farmers and cottagers, be likely to secure their confidence and to be welcomed among them.

3. The energies of the superintendent and her staff should be concentrated upon bettering the material condition of the people, upon adding to the comfort and happiness of the home, upon increasing the love and respect of the people for their home and for their country-lands, and generally upon raising economic efficiency and, in the case of rural holdings, upon counteracting the tendency to despise farm work and life.

4. It must be no part of the work of the Centre to train girls as domestic servants or to fit them for the factory or shop, nor will the Department give financial assistance where the girls do not return daily to their home.

5. It will be the duty of the superintendent and her colleagues to encourage girls and young women to meet at the Centre and to interest themselves in the objects mentioned below. All should be welcomed, even those who only occasionally seek information in difficulties of home management.

6. Every phase of the activity of the Centre will be practical. The cream or milk required in the dairy for practical butter and cheese making, the poultry to be killed and dressed, the materials for the dishes to be cooked, the materials for new garments, and the clothes to be mended, washed and ironed, should be brought by the girls themselves—each taking home the product of her labour.

7. The duty of the superintendent and her colleagues should not end with the work of the Centre itself. It should be supplemented by systematic visits to the homes wherever welcomed.

8. When success attends the efforts of a superintendent and staff, the work should be stimulated by holding an annual show of the produce of the dairy, poultry run, garden, and of articles of food and clothing prepared in the household.

9. A Rural Centre, to be recognised for the purposes of this scheme, should aim at having the following accommodation:—

(I.) A farm of twenty-five statute acres, with suitable houses for cows, calves and pigs.

(II.) Horses and suitable runs for at least two breeds of fowl and for one breed of turkeys, one for geese, and one for ducks.

(III.) A fruit and vegetable garden at least one-half statute acre in extent.

(IV.) A dairy for butter and cheese making.

(V.) A wash-house and ironing-room.

(VI.) A kitchen, with at least two open hearths.

A range is not required.

(VII.) A room for sewing, knitting and cottage industries.

10. The subjects of instruction should include:—

Dairying:

Feeding, milking and care of cows.

Feeding and care of calves and young stock.

Rearing, feeding and general management of pigs.

Separation of cream, both on the old and new systems.

Ripening cream and milk for churning.

Butter-making.

Making of rennet, curd, curd butter, soft and hard cheese.

Poultry-keeping:

Rearing and general management of hens, ducks, geese and turkeys.

Gardening:

The cultivation of vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Cleaning and decoration of the home.

Sewing, Knitting and Mending:

Making of clothes of all kinds for members of the family, either from new materials or from larger garments cut down.

Mending of garments of every description worn by people in the district.

Washing and Ironing:

Washing and ironing clothes brought in for this purpose by the pupils.

Cooking:

Only those dishes should be taught which can be made from the products of the farm and garden, with an open hearth and the following utensils:—Pot oven, kettle, frying pan, griddle, pots, sauce-pans, bowls, enamelled baking dishes, spoons, forks and knives.

Sick Nursing:

Cleaning and disinfecting a sick room, use of simple home remedies for slight common ailments; the cooking of invalid dishes.

Home Industries:

These should include any articles which can profitably be made in a cottage.

11. The Centre will be under the immediate supervision of the Department. A commencement may be made at any time with one or more of the subjects.

In all cases the financial assistance of the Department will take the form of equipment or of payment of staff, or of both.

That education of this nature for women is as essential as practical education for the farmers themselves is a proposition which it is unnecessary to labour, as the Department are satisfied that it is one on which the Commission are fully agreed. The experiment at Loughglin is proving a success, and a similar school should exist in every poor and populous district.

The school at Westport is intended for residential as well as non-residential pupils. It has been found, however, that this school is not in sufficiently close proximity to small holdings to enable it to be as effective as that at Loughglin. The Department hope that the Commission will inspect these two schools in the course of their visit to the West. Below it is recommended that funds should be supplied for their multiplication in the congested districts.

During the agricultural year 1905-6, which has just closed, the County Committees of the seven congested counties spent, out of the post fund on agricultural schemes, a sum of £19,977, and for the current agricultural year sanction has been given for the expenditure of £17,039. Of this, the Department contribute £10,682, which includes the Congested Districts Board's contribution of £2,000. During the agricultural year which has closed the Department spent on supplementary schemes £4,514, and for the current year the estimated expenditure was £5,792. As already stated, however, the Agricultural Board, at their meeting on the 9th January last, voted for one year, in order to show their appreciation of the needs of the Western districts, a further sum of £4,000, to be spent on supplementary schemes of agricultural development—mainly instruction. The sum available for supplementary schemes in 1905-7 now amounts, therefore, to £8,792. The details of the County Schemes, on which it is proposed to spend £17,039, are similar to those for the rest of Ireland. The estimates for each county and each scheme are set out

APPENDIX IV.

in the general Table, pp. 192-3, as well as in the following series of Tables, which will give some indication of the extent, the distribution, and the cost of the work done or in progress under the County Committees or directly under the Department.

The actual schemes in operation, or to be put into operation, during the year by each of the County Committees are as follows:—

Schemes administered by County Committees in 1906-7.

County.	Scheme.	Estimated Cost.
DOUBIN,	Live Stock, ...	£ 440
	Prize for Small Farms, ...	800
	Subsidies to Shows, ...	300
	Flax Improvement, ...	500
		2
LIMERICK,	Waste Schools, ...	300
	Live Stock, ...	275
	Horticulture, ...	200
	Poultry Keeping, ...	150
	Butter-making, ...	90
LIMERICK,	Subsidies to Shows, ...	200
LIMERICK,	Agricultural Instruction, ...	300
	Live Stock, ...	400
	Bee-Keeping, ...	50
	Poultry Keeping, ...	140
	Butter-making, ...	130
LIMERICK,	Prize for Small Farms, ...	100
	Subsidies to Shows, ...	100
MAYO,	Agricultural Instruction, ...	150
	Live Stock, ...	300
	Horticulture and Bee-Keeping, ...	210
	Poultry Keeping, ...	200
	Butter-making, ...	300
MAYO,	Prize for Small Farms, ...	500
	Subsidies to Shows, ...	510
	Flax Improvement, ...	40
MAYO,	Agricultural Instruction, ...	510
	Live Stock, ...	675
	Horticulture and Bee-Keeping, ...	520
	Poultry Keeping, ...	200
	Butter-making, ...	210
MAYO,	Prize for Small Farms, ...	315
	Subsidies to Shows, ...	300
MAYO,	Agricultural Instruction, ...	100
	Live Stock, ...	500
	Horticulture and Bee-Keeping, ...	100
	Poultry Keeping, ...	100
	Butter-making, ...	120
MAYO,	Prize for Small Farms, ...	100
	Subsidies to Shows, ...	200
MAYO,	Agricultural Instruction, ...	500
	Live Stock, ...	1,000
	Horticulture and Bee-Keeping, ...	150
	Poultry Keeping, ...	300
	Butter-making, ...	100
MAYO,	Prize for Small Farms, ...	100
	Subsidies to Shows, ...	300

Showing the Total Sums allocated and sanctioned for County Schemes in 1906-7, (a.) for the 33 Counties; and (b.) for the 7 Congested Counties.

	For all Ireland.	For the seven Congested Counties only.
Agricultural Instruction (itself), ..	15,587	5,100
Agricultural Instruction (model schools), ..	1,540	500
Poultry Keeping, ...	9,300	1,840
Butter-making, ...	5,500	1,200
Horticulture and Bee-Keeping, ..	4,547	1,540
Prize for small farms and cottages, ..	5,700	1,440
Live Stock, ...	51,407	5,100
Prize to stock at agricultural shows, ..	7,300	1,500
Flax Improvement, ...	621	240
Fertilisers and Fencing Staffs Act, ..	560	80
Administrative Expenses, ...	10,000	1,900
Total, ...	90,000	17,500
Rate, ...	31,000	6,500
Department's Contribution, ..	59,000	11,000

Showing the Annual Expenditure on County Schemes:—(a.) by the 33 County Committees, (b.) by the Committees of 7 Congested Counties, and (c.) by the Department direct on Supplementary Schemes in the 7 Congested Counties since 1904.

Year.	Expenditure.		
	By County Committees on County Schemes by Statutory County Committees.	On County Schemes by Committees of seven Congested Counties since 1904.	By Department direct on Supplementary Schemes in the seven Congested Counties.
	£	£	£
1904-5, ..	11,300	3,500	—
1905-6, ..	15,800	4,810	—
1906-7, ..	16,500	6,500	—
1907-8, ..	16,210	10,100	—
1908-9, ..	16,800	11,710	1,500
1909-10, ..	16,400	12,870	4,810
1910-11, ..	160,000	17,000	1,500

* Amount allocated and sanctioned.

NOTE.—The valuation of the Rural Districts in the whole of Ireland is 4-7 times that of the valuation of the Rural Districts comprised in the seven counties containing Congested Areas; while the valuation of the Rural Districts comprised in the seven Congested Counties is 4-7 times that of the valuation of the portion thereof scheduled as congested.

Showing the Expenditure in the Congested Areas of seven Congested Counties from 1904-5.

Year.	By County Committees on County Schemes.			By Department direct on Supplementary Schemes.	Totals.
	From Rates.	From C.D.F.	From Department.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1904-5, ..	1,510	1,600	—	1,540	4,650
1905-6, ..	1,610	1,000	100	4,810	7,520
1906-7,* ..	1,600	2,000	1,100	4,700	9,400

* Amount allocated and sanctioned.

Showing Cost of Special Work, supplementary to that of the County Committee, administered and paid for direct by the Department in 1906-7.

		£
INSTRUCTION, ...	Salaries and Expenses of Overseers.	400
	Demonstration Plots, Proportion (one-third) Ex- tracurricular salary and expenses (250).	71
		83
LIVE STOCK, ...	Fees for bulls (74) at £10 and 12s.	1,000
	Fees for heifers (10) at 4s and 10s.	90
	Cost of leading same (74) at 7s.	518
	Net cost of maintenance of stallions (10) and grasses, &c.	1,000
	Net cost of maintenance of mares (41) with railway charges (47), interest, and depreciation (45) at £12	492
	Cost of mares, mules, &c., railway charges on pre- mises both special and county.	100
SCHOOLS, ...	Loughgryon, Grant for teach- ing wages of garden, &c.	400
CLERICAL STAFF, ..	Salaries of two clerks (£70 and £80).	150
		4,314

Showing the Estimated Cost of Special Work, supplementary to that of the County Committee to be administered and paid for directly by Department in 1906-7.

		£
INSTRUCTION, ...	Salaries and Expenses of Overseers.	2,004
	Seeds and Manure for Plots, See Instruction, ...	1,000
		100
LIVE STOCK, ...	Fees for bulls (120) at £10 and 12s.	1,200
	Fees for heifers (80) at 4s and 10s.	300
	Cost of leading same (120) at 6s.	600
	Maintenance of 50 stallions, including railway charges, interest, depreciation, and cost of grasses.	1,200
	Maintenance of 50 mares, in- cluding railway charges, interest, and depreciation.	310
	Expenses of mules, mules, insurance, railway charges on premises both.	200
SCHOOLS, ...	Loughgryon, Grant for teach- ing wages of garden, &c.	400
CLERICAL STAFF, ..	Salaries of two clerks (£20 and £30).	150
		7,514

* The increase in the work has been rendered possible by an additional vote of the Agricultural Board on 14th January, 1907.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION.

It is only this year that all the County Committees, with the exception of Donegal, have succeeded in securing the services of a trained agricultural instructor.

The supplementary work of the Department has consisted in the placing of one instructor in Donegal, one in Westport, one in Galway, and more recently one at Tralee, but the time of these officers has been so fully occupied in pushing on the supplementary schemes of the Department, particularly in the placing out of sires, that they could spare but little time for agricultural instruction. So far as was practicable, however, they have given advice to farmers in the districts in which they are located, and have carried out a number of demonstrations on the rearing and growing of crops. The additional funds voted at the last meeting of the Agricultural Board have enabled the Department to employ nine additional instructors, who now are at work on supplementary schemes of instruction. Of these one is in Donegal, three in Mayo, three in Galway, and two in Kerry. If funds permit there will be employed as circumstances render it necessary.

LIVE STOCK SCHEMES.

HORSE-BREEDING.

COUNTY COMMITTEE SCHEMES showing the number of Nominations issued to Selected Mares for Service by Registered Sire in Seven Counties during each of the Years 1901-2-3-4-5-6.

County.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	*1906.
Donegal, ..	—	10	91	110	131	139	59
Sligo, ..	—	99	92	92	92	100	46
L-tin, ..	26	20	29	54	57	50	35
Mayo, ..	—	40	50	52	105	130	54
Roscommon, ..	79	91	82	83	88	83	20
Galway, ..	44	73	64	104	128	177	46
Kerry, ..	27	65	73	144	144	159	43
Total, ..	197	404	412	564	702	949	289

* Number of Nominations issued in Conquest Districts since in each County in 1906.

To supplement the work of the County Committees the Department in the poorer and more backward districts of these counties where horse-breeding is carried on, located Stallions as under for service of small farmers' mares at a fee of 20s. and under.

Showing number of Stallions supplementary to those on the Department's Register located in the poorer districts.

County.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Donegal, ..	—	—	—	2	2	4
Sligo, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
L-tin, ..	—	—	—	1	1	1
Mayo, ..	—	—	—	5	5	9
Roscommon, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galway, ..	—	—	—	8	9	9
Kerry, ..	—	—	—	2	2	2
Total, ..	—	—	—	18	19	19

The breeds were represented last season as follows:—

Thoroughbreds, ..	5
Half Breeds, ..	6
Hackneys, ..	4
Welsh Cobs, ..	5
Norwegian, ..	1
Total, ..	19

With the exception of the Half Breeds and of the Thoroughbreds, these animals were taken over from the Conquest District Board in 1904.

These Stallions were located as follows.

County Donegal (4).

Breed.	Located with.
Hackney, ..	Department's groom at Dungloe.
Do, ..	James O'Donnell, Kesh, Glenties.
Half Breed, ..	Charles Terrell, Londonderry, Antrim, and
Do, ..	Department's groom at Ardara, Snaresburg.

APPENDIX IV.

County Galway (6).

Welsh Coll.	J. Cusack, Derrybeg, Gart.
Backery.	W. Jones, Cusack, Spiddal.
Welsh Coll.	J. Dalton, Cullagh, Liscann.
Do.	J. Connolly, Shesmore, Spiddal.
Do.	J. Connolly, O'Brien.
Half bred.	T. O'Malley, Keshmuck.

County Mayo (5).

Thoroughbred. ..	Department's groom, Edinvald.
Do.	Department's groom, Achill.
Steeplechase. ..	T. O'Malley, Farnham, Clare Island.
Backery.	P. Kelly, Lonsburgh.
Welsh Coll.	Department's groom, Achill Forest.
Half bred.	Department's groom, Edinvald.

County Leitrim (1).

Thoroughbred. ..	P. Lee, Tullogh, Derry.
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County Kerry (2).

Thoroughbred. ..	Department's groom at Cahirciveen.
Do.	Department's groom at Kenmare.

Improvement of Asses.

None of the County Committees undertake schemes for the improvement of these animals which are of such immense service to small occupiers. The demand for Spanish jacks is, however, insatiable, and the Department have had to undertake very considerable expenditure in order to meet the wants of the people of the poorer districts. These sires are somewhat costly and difficult to procure. In all forty-seven were placed out in 1906 for service at a fee of one shilling. Twelve more have been imported recently and will be placed out on similar terms in 1907. A few half-bred jacks, reared in Ireland, have been placed, but they have not been acceptable to the people. The Department are attempting to breed a better class of half-bred jack, which it is hoped may in future serve the purpose and render it unnecessary to import from Spain.

SHOWING the number of Stallion Asses located in the poorer parts of the Seven Counties during each of the Years 1904-5-6.

County.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Donegal.	1	1	1
Sligo.	2	1	2
Londonderry. ..	4	2	2
Mayo.	2	2	2
Down.	5	5	5
Galway.	2	2	7
Kerry.	11	6	10
Total.	27	20	40

These asses were located as follows in 1906:—

COUNTY DONEGAL (1).

James Morrow, Farnham, Letterkenny.

COUNTY GALWAY (7).

Martin Collins, Cappard, Peterswell; James Molloy, Clough, Ballymawney; John Cavanagh, Trillick, Kinsara; Patrick Kennedy, Slieveone, Moyade, Athlery; Julia Lyden, Shanahan, Spiddal; Patrick Cooney, Crow-street, Gart; Thomas Tracy, Newcastle, Moyade.

COUNTY KERRY (2).

E. Rayd, Beshew, Dingle; P. Fitzgerald, Scart, Cullacore; Samuel Taylor, Gortmalone, Glenties; John Donegan, Dromahaire, Cusack; C. W. Riddan, Knockerrins, Brooma; Michael Shea, Farranmore, Castlegregory; Joseph Wharton, Aughahilly, Cahirciveen; Timothy Daly, Gortmalone, Kenmare; Michael Mangin, Behanagh, Knocknagoshel; Michael O'Connor, Drinnamore, Scart.

COUNTY LEITRIM (1).

J. W. Canfield, Annaghmacalla, Cloone; John Gallagher, Lisnastalla, Ballinamore; Bernard Winters, Corham, Drumcong; James Farnham, Carran Lake; William Meally, Drumisley, Mohill; Patrick Clynne, Mohill, Drumcong.

COUNTY MAYO (5).

John Duffy, Carracogill, Liscann, Ballaghaderreen; John Gill, Gortmalone, Glenties; Patrick Flaherty, Liscann, Farnham; Peter Cooney, Cullacore, Glenties; John Naughton, Farnham, Farnham; James Stuart, Annagh, Ballina.

COUNTY ROSCOMMON (9).

William Evans, Coolshingauna, Ballinlough; Michael Egan, Liscann, Farnham; Thomas Hanley, Mountshel, Killybeg; Peter Byrne, Farnham, Farnham; Mark Larkin, Liscann, Killybeg; Richard J. O'Brien, Mulhannigan, Athlone; Patrick F. O'Brien, Hill-street, Drumana; Patrick Murray, Longshingauna, Ballinlough; J. M'Dermott, Drumahaire, Ballaghaderreen.

COUNTY SLIGO (2).

Michael Nicholson, Coober, Castlegall; Francis M'Dermott, Glenties, Sligo.

CATTLE BREEDING.

As already stated, the provision of good sires, particularly bulls, has proved the form of assistance most in demand in these counties, especially among the smaller farmers who are not able to pay cash for the animals or to go to sales or shows to purchase them. In 1904, when the Congested Districts Board withdrew their assistance, the western districts were fairly well stocked with bulls. These bulls were not handed over to the Department, as would appear from Mr. Wyndham's minute, but remained the property of the Board or of the farmer. At the time the transfer took place, the farmers in the non-congested counties were only beginning to properly understand the system to be followed in order to get premiums for bulls through County Committees, and it took residents in the congested areas, a still longer time to adopt the new system. One of the difficulties in supplying bulls in recent years has been that the simultaneous action of the thirty-three County Committees enormously increased the demand for high-class bulls. The County Committees require annually over 900 bulls for their schemes of cattle improvement, and as there is not nearly a sufficient number bred in Ireland to meet this demand, and as some of the more up-to-date farmers in other parts of the country are always prompt to avail themselves of the provisions of the scheme in the matter of bulls, there has always been a difficulty in ensuring a fair share of the available supply of animals for applicants from the western counties. In order to overcome this difficulty the Department usually buy a draft of bulls at the early sales and hold them over on their own premises until the applicants from these districts come forward. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Congested Districts Board conferred a great boon on the residents of Connacht as well as on the Department by transferring to the latter body the option to purchase the Goodbody farm at Athenry, which the Congested Districts Board had acquired, as by the establishment of an agricultural station on this farm it has been made possible for the Department to bring the number of premium bulls in the West up to its present level. The policy of the Department has been to allow the County Committees to take effect over the whole of the county, congested as well as non-congested, and after the County Committees have made their selections of the persons to keep premium bulls, the Department review what localities appear to be inadequately supplied, and then endeavour to supply the deficiency with the reserve bulls from their

stations. This system prevents the over-lapping, competition and confusion which would ensue if two bodies were at work on the same scheme.

The only three drawbacks to the cattle-breeding scheme are the want of funds, the dearth of good bulls, and the increase in the price of bulls. The latter has been caused not so much by the united action of the thirty-three County Committees, though this has contributed to it, but to the enhanced value of breeding stock during the last few years. To illustrate this, it may be mentioned that the average prices of short-horn bulls sold at Perth, the principal source from which Irish farmers draw their supplies outside Ireland, have for the last few years been as follow:—

1897, 626	1902, 620
1898, 519	1903, 625
1899, 636	1904, 626
1900, 628	1905, 648
1901, 627	1906, 684

It may be added that almost all the bulls in the poorer parts of the seven counties are purchased on the Department's loan scheme, that is, the purchaser pays one-third of the purchase price, and repays the remainder in two annual instalments with a nominal interest.

Under the County Committee's scheme, as well as under the Department's supplementary scheme, the farmers themselves select the breed of bull. An effort has been made too to get the farmers to attend at the Department's agricultural stations and make their own selection, but in the majority of cases they seem reluctant to do so.

It will be seen from the following tables that each season has seen a very marked increase in the number of bulls placed, the Department's special scheme. If the increase be maintained in the current year, the number for service should amount to 150 as against 74 in 1906 and 33 in 1905. Including those located under the County Schemes the total for the seven counties will be about 300, but this must to some extent depend upon the supply of bulls and the price at which they can be obtained. Before this evidence is submitted, the first sale for the year will have been held, and a number of bulls for the congested districts will have been purchased.

The bulls located by the Department are as far as possible within or bordering on the congested districts, but since the barriers between the two areas have now been abolished so far as the Department's work is concerned, the inspectors have not been asked to confine the supplementary bulls strictly to the scheduled areas, but to see that they are placed in those districts which most require them, and in districts which are technically, if not legally, congested.

For the most part the animals placed under the supplementary scheme are given out on the same terms as those of the County Committees, but in the case of Galway or Kerry bulls, whose price has not been so much affected by the recent advance in prices, the terms are those formerly given by the Congested Districts Board.

The following tables will give some indication of the operations of the two schemes:—

Services showing the provision made for the location in 1906 of Bulls in the Seven Counties containing Congested Areas.

County.	Total number located in each County.	Number in Loan Scheme (Bulls provided for out of Joint Fund).	Services in Congested Districts.		
			Pro-vided for out of Joint Fund.	Extra Provisions provided for by the Department.	
				On the Ordinary System.	On Special Terms.
Donegal, ..	46	18	25	12	6
Sligo, ..	18	18	4	—	—
Leitrim, ..	18	19	4	2	—
Mayo, ..	37	14	8	15	2
Roscommon, ..	20	17	3	—	—
Galway, ..	45	17	8	14	3
Kerry, ..	41	12	22	6	11
Total, ..	221	95	64	50	24

RESULTS showing number of PREMIUM BULLS located under County Schemes in the Seven Counties during each of the Years 1901-2-3-4-5-6. APPENDIX IV.

County.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Donegal, ..	14	17	24	24	22	22
Sligo, ..	6	14	14	20	18	19
Leitrim, ..	—	15	18	17	18	16
Mayo, ..	—	3	10	17	21	22
Roscommon, ..	7	4	13	21	25	26
Galway, ..	5	7	7	15	26	26
Kerry, ..	6	10	23	23	22	22
Total, ..	28	67	85	140	154	157

COUNTIES CONTAINING CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

Showing number of Bulls Specially Located by the Department in the Seven Counties during each of the Years 1904-5-6.

County.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Donegal, ..	—	7	18
Sligo, ..	—	—	—
Leitrim, ..	—	1	5
Mayo, ..	1	6	15
Roscommon, ..	—	—	—
Galway, ..	7	20	18
Kerry, ..	—	7	20
Total, ..	8	35	76

OWNERS OF COUNTY PREMIUM BULLS, 1906.

COUNTY DONEGAL.

Yearling Bulls.

- S.H. 1. Wm. J. Foster, Drumbeg House, Ballynashannagh, Letterkenney.
 S.H. 2. Andrew Peoples, Carroneagh, Bart, Londonderry.
 S.H. 3. Albert Carraden, Drumballan House, Turin.
 S.H. 4. Wm. Marshall, Fairview, Inch, Londonderry.
 S.H. 5. James P. Fullerton, Shellfield, Ramodon.
 S.H. 6. Wm. A. Sheldon, Ashfield House, Magheracallia, Raphoe.
 S.H. 7. Charles McCandless, Carr House, Cullinst, Derry.
 A.A. 8. Patk. McLaughlin, Castlebarney, Duncannon, Strabane.
 A.A. 9. Alexander Anderson, Tubber, Carrangallen, Ballyshannon.

Two-Year-Old Bulls.

- S.H. 10. Robert Scott, Tulnace House, Carradough.
 S.H. 11. Frank O'Donnell, Bartinport.
 S.H. 12. James McGonigle, Donish, Ballyhealy.
 S.H. 13. Thomas W. Peoples, Tullamore, Churchtown, Londonderry.
 S.H. 14. John Porterfield, Farnmore, Letterkenney.
 S.H. 15. Wm. Graham, Arinagh, St. Johnston.
 S.H. 16. Joseph McArthur, Carracaddy, Bart, Londonderry.
 A.A. 17. Edward Vaughan, Dunsuckran, Ballyshannon.
 G. 18. John McCandless, Keldrum Upper, Gortahack.
 A.A. 19. Edward Melly, Drumbeg, Donegal.
 G. 20. David Pobery, Ballyshannon, Glenties.

APPENDIX IV.

Three-Year-Old Bulls.

- G. 21. James Sweeney, Magheraclogher, Bunslog.
 A.A. 22. James McGlynn, Litterick, Clighan, Strathmore.
 A.A. 23. George Allingham, Mullinagood, Pettigo.
 S.H. 24. Andrew Sprouke, Fershill, Kilmacrennan.
 S.H. 25. Edward Boyle, Ardilly, Ardara.
 S.H. 26. Wm. Thompson, Currane, Wexford, Strathmore.
 S.H. 27. Edward McFeely, Daisyhill, Ballykeef.
 S.H. 28. Robert Cooper, Moonshaghy, Castlefinn.
 S.H. 29. Patk. McLaughlin, Ballyloman, Malin, Londonderry.
 S.H. 30. Thomas Baldick, Linstort, Banrana.
 S.H. 31. Patrick Byrne, Brianasillagh, Glenties.
 S.H. 32. Richard Knox, Cylbere, Belleek.

OWNERS OF COUNTY PREMIUM BULLS, 1906.

COUNTY SLIGO.

Yearlings.

- A.A. 1. Patrick Brennan, Doonahkeen, Ballinacree.
 A.A. 2. Patrick Ross, Rathmatheran, Coolaney.
 A.A. 3. John E. Morrison, Woodhill, Ballymote.
 A.A. 4. Maurice Kitchin, Beltra, Carravassan, Coolaney.
 S.H. 5. Michael Colley, Carravassan, Coolaney.
 S.H. 6. Thomas Hanson, Rendale Lodge, Chiffoley.

Two-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 7. James Rowlette, Cragg, Sligo.
 S.H. 8. Roger Davey, Drumakabole, Ballinacree.
 S.H. 9. Francis O'Gara, Deeknash, Ballymote.
 A.A. 10. Mathias Ferguson, Kilmacrennan, Cloughalee.
 S.H. 11. William Mitchell, Beltra, Ballinacree.

Three-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 12. John J. Higgins, Farnham, Skreen.
 S.H. 13. Michael Gallagher, Kilmacrennan, Coolaney.
 S.H. 14. William Barber, Scoor, Riversdown.
 S.H. 15. Thomas O'Dowd, Goldfield, Chafford.
 A.A. 16. Bernard Scanlan, Cloonagh, Drumakabole.
 A.A. 17. Cornelius Henry, Carravassan, Coolaney.
 A.A. 18. John Morrison, Cloughan, Coolaney.
 A.A. 19. Patrick Henry, Ross, Skreen.

OWNERS OF COUNTY PREMIUM BULLS, 1906.

COUNTY LITTIM.

Yearlings.

- A.A. 1. James W. Cusby, Carravassan, Drumakabole.
 H. 2. H. B. Clements, Lough Ryan R.S.O., Drumakabole.
 A.A. 3. John Doyle, Lahen, Mohill.

Two-Year-Olds.

- A.A. 4. Patrick Ryan, Drumakabole, Dorr.
 A.A. 5. Robert McGilkin, Largydonnell, Manerhamilton.
 S.H. 6. Patrick Kerrigan, Carravassan, Drumakabole.
 A.A. 7. John McGowan, Derryhall, Drumakabole.

Three-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 8. Francis O'Hara, Ushina, Ballinacree.
 S.H. 9. Andrew McGowan, Drumakabole, Manerhamilton.
 A.A. 10. William Hunt, Cloonagh, Drumakabole.
 A.A. 11. William Jones, Lahen, Mohill.
 A.A. 12. Francis Lawrence, Anghadernbeg, Mohill.

Four-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 13. Luke Deane, Glabe, Garadice, Ballinacree.
 S.H. 14. James W. Cusby, Carravassan, Drumakabole.
 A.A. 15. Robert Noddy, Anghadernbeg, Drumakabole.
 S.H. 16. Wm. A. Cusby, Listadnan, Lough Ryan, Drumakabole.

OWNERS OF COUNTY PREMIUM BULLS, 1906.

COUNTY MAYO.

Yearlings.

- H. 1. James H. Massey, Carr, Carravassan, Ballina.
 A.A. 2. Martin Hughes, Mullinacree, Crommelin.
 A. 3. Robert Scott, Barnfield, Ballina.
 S.H. 4. Thomas Hughes, Ballymagibbon, Carr.
 A.A. 5. James O'Boyle, Terroe, Kibola.
 A.A. 6. Patrick Kigallon, Mullinacree, Ballina.

Two-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 7. Patrick Malley, Knockglass, Ballinacree.
 S.H. 8. James Murphy, Ballymartin, Kilmacrennan.
 S.H. 9. James Cowan, Knockree, Ballymartin.
 S.H. 10. John Ward, Tarnagh, Carravassan.
 S.H. 11. James Byrne, Loughanboy, Ballymartin.
 S.H. 12. John O'Donnell, Oxford, Kilmacrennan.
 S.H. 13. Thomas Train, Anghadernbeg, Kilmacrennan.
 A.A. 14. P. O'Donnell, Carravassan, Clough, Westport.
 A.A. 15. Anthony Clark, Ballinacree, Island, Carravassan.
 A.A. 16. Guy O'Connell, Carravassan, Crommelin.
 A.A. 17. Michael Moran, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 A.A. 18. Patrick Winters, Ballymartin.

Three-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 19. John Connor, Tully, Carravassan.
 A.A. 20. Michael Pendergast, Anghadernbeg, Carravassan.
 A.A. 21. James Stuart, Anghadernbeg, Ballina (Carravassan).

Four-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 22. Bridget Brownick, Carravassan, Carravassan.

OWNERS OF COUNTY PREMIUM BULLS, 1906.

COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

Yearlings.

- S.H. 1. Patrick Murray, Loughblack, Ballymagibbon.
 S.H. 2. Michael Conway, Meigh, Cootahill, Boyle.
 S.H. 3. Edward Hayden, Highisle, Ballinacree.
 S.H. 4. Martin Peyton, Carravassan, Ballinacree.
 A.A. 5. Michael Kelly, Ballinacree, Carravassan.
 A.A. 6. Matthew Carley, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 7. Andrew Dolan, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 A.A. 8. Charles White, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 A.A. 9. Thomas Brennan, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 10. Timothy Burke, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 A.A. 11. Michael Fallon, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 12. William Gleason, Carravassan, Carravassan.

Two-Year-Olds.

- H. 13. Patrick Coyle, Carravassan, Carravassan.

Three-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 14. Bernard Naughton, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 15. Malachy McGovern, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 16. James Murphy, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 A.A. 17. Patrick McLaughlin, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 H. 18. Thomas Martin, Carravassan, Carravassan.

Four-Year-Olds.

- H. 19. Thomas J. O'Brien, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 H. 20. Malachy Donnelly, Carravassan, Carravassan.

OWNERS OF COUNTY PREMIUM BULLS, 1906.

COUNTY GALWAY.

Yearlings.

- H. 1. Michael F. Neary, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 2. J. S. Boynton, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 3. C. J. Kerin, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 4. Michael Carr, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 5. Michael Brown, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 6. Michael Cunningham, Carravassan, Carravassan.

Two-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 7. James Malley, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 8. Bernard Conaghan, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 9. Thomas Sweeney, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 10. John Madden, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 11. Joseph Fair, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 12. Thomas Burke, Carravassan, Carravassan.
 S.H. 13. Michael Driney, Carravassan, Carravassan.

Three-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 14. Mrs. Margaret Dempsey, Lichensvaranogue, Aughrim.
 S.H. 15. Michael Boynton, Bona, Portlanna.
 H. 16. Michael Dillon, Shanvally, Portlanna.
 Four-Year-Olds.
 S.H. 17. M. Hallinan, Crumhewell.
 S.H. 18. Terence Keane, Ballingitta, Kilsnoy, Tean.
 S.H. 19. J. Curran, Carr, Ballyglumina.
 H. 20. M. Paga, Chilly, Woodford.

Two-Year-Olds.—Galway Bulls.

21. Patrick McDonagh, Drin, Carrane, Lettermore.
 22. Julia Lyden, Shanamonee, Spiddal.
 23. Thomas Welby, Mayroon, Oughtonni.

Three-Year-Olds.

24. Andrew McGee, Knockavally, Ballycourse, Clifton.
 25. Laurence Kelly, Knockavally, Borna.
 26. Patrick Mangus, Myrish Island, Carr.

OWNERS OF COUNTY PREMIUM BULLS, 1906.

COUNTY KERRY.

Yearlings.

- S.H. 1. Jeremiah J. Doyle, Whitefield, Beaufort, Killarney.
 A.A. 2. Philip Healy, Ballygreene, Listowel.
 A.A. 3. Edmund Roche, Magins, Gortadoe.
 A.A. 4. Wm. Barrett, Kervie, East, Tralee.
 S.H. 5. John T. Griffin, Killberr, Ballymacolligt.
 A.A. 6. John M. Healy, Letterin, Ardfert.
 A.A. 7. Denis P. Downing, Doreen East, Tomplenee, Kenmare.

Two-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 8. Michael O'Donnell, Killiney, Castlegregory.
 S.H. 9. Michael Dineen, Duncormuck, Annascaul.
 S.H. 10. Edward Bayle, Bona, Dingle.
 S.H. 11. Daniel J. Cronin, Ards, Killarney.
 S.H. 12. Joseph Stephens, Backlog, Milford.
 S.H. 13. Bryan McGowan, Annascaul, Castletown.
 S.H. 14. Patrick Trinch, Touragadey, Listowel.

Three-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 15. Florence O'Sullivan, Carrane, Farnham.
 A.A. 16. George O'Garra, Killycreegan, Ballyhar, Farnham.
 S.H. 17. Edmund Harty, Lisycarrig, Camusary.
 S.H. 18. Maurice Lawlor, Ballinacross, Camusary.
 S.H. 19. Denis Crowley, Monksferry West, Scartaghin.
 S.H. 20. Garrett Preaderville, Wood, Cocol, Castletown.
 S.H. 21. John M. Sullivan, Borna West, Abbeyfeale.
 A.A. 22. John L. Quinlan, Kilow, Castletown.

OWNERS OF BULLS SPECIALLY LOCATED BY DEPARTMENT, 1906.

COUNTY DUBLIN.

On County Committee's terms.

Yearlings.

- A.A. 1. Andrew Wilkinson, Crookedagh.
 A.A. 2. George McGregor, Monaraddy, Ardara.
 S.H. 3. Edward Elkin, Lecanoy House, Morilla.
 A.A. 4. John McGowan, Castlemaguihy, Redcastle, Lonsdownery.
 S.H. 5. George Henry, Alghar, Bruckless, Stabane.
 S.H. 6. Robert Wilkin, Churchhill.
 S.H. 7. James O'Donnell, Caskings, Kilsar.

Two-Year-Olds.

- A.A. 8. Thomas Wark, Drumore, Monntcharles.
 S.H. 9. Blane McDermott, Derris, Glenties.
 S.H. 10. John Shavin, Ballymacolligt, Glenties.
 S.H. 11. Francis Arnold, Ouzaghboy, Anders.
 S.H. 12. Daniel Brennan, Shallemore, Fintona.
 G. 13. Patrick McGeehan, Drinmaha, Fintona.

On Special Terms.

- G. 14. Patrick Dewine, Newalls, Letterkenny.
 G. 15. Charles Boyle, Arannore Island, Arannore, Letterkenny.
 G. 16. Anthony Glavin, Clonderry, Maghery.
 G. 17. Eliph Northey, Glanbeek, Camarongh.
 G. 18. James Morrison, Glencary.

COUNTY LITTIM.

On County Committee's terms.

- S.H. 1. Lieutenant-Colonel Adamson, Glendene Hall, Glendene-Teamlings.
 A.A. 2. Thomas Flyn, Carrilla, Derris—Two-year-old.

COUNTY MAYO.

On County Committee's terms.

Yearlings.

- A.A. 1. Mrs. Margaret Lynn, Keadagh, Crossmolina.
 A.A. 2. Denis Lynn, Doolough, Crossmolina.
 A.A. 3. Owen McNally, Ferrera, Loughbeg.
 G. 4. Mrs. Mary McGing, Croglarin, Toomakeeney.
 Two-Year-Olds.
 S.H. 5. John Halligan, Derrish, Killybegh.
 S.H. 6. Thomas Moore, Knappagh, Westport.
 S.H. 7. John Wilks, Springhill, Kilsnena.
 S.H. 8. P. P. Tully, Ballinabbar House, Castlebar.
 A.A. 9. James Daly, Blacklough, Glenhest.
 A.A. 10. J. Casey, Ballinacree, Partry.
 A.A. 11. Patrick Kelly, Strangh, Louisburgh.
 Three-Year-Olds.
 S.H. 12. Thomas Tighe, Talleg, Belmullet.

On Special Terms.

- G. 13. Pat Grady, Bunnaburn, Glare Island.
 G. 14. Pat Mally, Garroveragh, Westport.
 G. 15. Michael Murphy, Ateralla, Bangor, Erris.

COUNTY GALWAY.

On County Committee's terms.

Yearlings.

- A.A. 1. Patrick Walsh, Kilbricken, Broomagh.
 A.A. 2. Cyril Allen, Enishbetta Island.
 G. 3. Patrick Molloy, Lettermane.
 G. 4. John Folan, Ennena.

Two-Year-Olds.

- G. 5. Michael Little, Banowabag, Ballymoody.
 G. 6. Gilbert Joyce, Chilm, Benville.
 G. 7. The Superior, Franciscan Monastery, Roundwood.
 G. 8. John Cawley, Tully, Letterfrack.

Three-Year-Olds.

- S.H. 9. Mathias O'Malley, Attygedawn, Cluggan.
 S.H. 10. Philip Moma, Magd, Moyall, Letterfrack.
 S.H. 11. Patrick Salmon, Cullaghobag, Leenane.
 S.H. 12. Martin Connors, Onacht, Aran Island.
 S.H. 13. Martin Walsh, Carrig, Moycullen.
 S.H. 14. F. J. Connolly, Clifton House, Clifton.

On Special Terms.

- G. 15. John Coyne, Gowlane, Clifton.
 G. 16. Owen Kyn, Moycullen.
 G. 17. John Connolly, Tarsan, Carrane.
 G. 18. Colman Keane, Kilkerris, Carr.
 G. 19. Charles O'Brien, Coonan, Oughtonni.

COUNTY KERRY.

On County Committee's terms.

Yearlings.

- S.H. 1. J. Driscoll, Camusary, Tralee.
 S.H. 2. M. McDermott, Keshinglers, Dingle.
 A.A. 3. R. J. Murphy, Ahane, Bross.
 S.H. 4. Thomas Foley, Angiant, Killybegh.
 S.H. 5. Michael Mangus, Bona, Abbeyfeale.
 S.H. 6. William Byrne, Fula, Ballinacree.
 A.A. 7. Miles Cronin, Cahernilla, Ballyhegan.
 A.A. 8. Timothy Brennan, Loughitader, Knockaghal.

K. 9. Thomas Stephens, Cappagh, Cahernane.

On Special Terms.

- K. 10. Joseph Wharton, Aghaladeid, Cahernane.
 K. 11. Michael O'Reilly, Bona, Westerville.
 K. 12. Michael Sullivan, Ardmore, Waterville.
 K. 13. Eugene Sullivan, Carragh, Cahernane.
 K. 14. M. Shaw, Ballard, Bona.
 K. 15. Michael Sullivan, Inchin, Waterville.
 K. 16. J. P. Egan, Carragh, Tulla Bridge, Kenmare.
 K. 17. Michael Brown, Gerna, Beaufort.
 R.P. 18. Thomas Moriarty, Church Farm, Ventry, Dingle.
 R.P. 19. James Styles, Ballacree, Dingle.
 K. 20. Edward Fitzgerald, Bona, Bross.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE BREEDING OF SWINE.

As might be expected, the scheme for the improvement of the breeding of swine is one which has appealed specially to the western districts, and one on which the Department have expended a considerable share of such money as they had to dispose of. The simultaneous action of the thirty-three counties has, however, seriously interfered with the even distribution of the available animals, but the establishment of agricultural stations at Athlone and elsewhere has made it possible for the Department to reserve for Cunningham more than its due share of the available sires.

As is the case with the bull premiums, County Committees first make their selection, and the Department then fill in the blank districts which are left. The boars are sold by the County Committee to the applicants at cost price plus carriage. The system adopted is that the applicant pays £8 down, and the balance is deducted from the premium at the end of the season. In the case of those supplied by the Department, the same procedure is adopted. Probably no scheme has been attended with better results than this one, mainly, of course, because of the fact that the influence of the boar is felt much more quickly owing to these animals being more prolific and coming to maturity sooner than cattle.

The following tables show the operations of the Swine Scheme:—

SHOWING the provision made for the location in 1906 of Boars throughout the SEVEN Counties containing Congested Districts.

County.	Total Number Served in each County.	Number of Non-Congested Districts provided for out of Total Fund.	NUMBER IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS.	
			Provided for out of Total Fund.	Boars Provided for by Department on the Ordinary Terms.
Donegal, ...	5	4	1	5
Sligo, ...	16	12	4	—
Letterkenny, ..	11	6	5	4
Mayo, ...	31	9	14	5
Roscommon, ..	24	17	7	—
Galway, ...	30	24	4	5
Erris, ...	10	10	3	—
Total, ...	141	79	39	23

SHOWING number of PREMIUM BOARS located under County Schemes in the SEVEN Counties during each of the Years 1901-2-3-4-5-6.

County.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Donegal, ...	—	4	3	4	4	4
Sligo, ...	7	9	5	13	16	16
Letterkenny, ..	—	1	—	1	7	7
Mayo, ...	—	3	7	12	18	20
Roscommon, ..	12	—	10	8	14	11
Galway, ...	16	24	16	4	20	20
Erris, ...	12	—	10	14	14	15
Totals, ...	37	32	46	53	83	103

SHOWING number of SPECIAL PREMIUM BOARS located by the Department in SEVEN Counties during each of the Years 1904-5-6.

County.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Donegal, ...	—	1	3
Sligo, ...	—	—	—
Letterkenny, ..	—	6	6
Mayo, ...	—	—	9
Roscommon, ..	—	—	—
Galway, ...	—	5	8
Erris, ...	—	—	—
Total, ...	—	12	26

OWNERS OF PREMIUM BOARS UNDER COUNTY SCHEMES, 1906.

COUNTY DONEGAL.

First Year Premium Boars.

1. Archibald Bond, Monaghan, Newtownabbeyham.
2. F. G. Alexander, Imlick, Carrigan, Londonderry.
3. James Wilkie, Danmore, Colmah, Londonderry.
4. David Boggs, Bree, Ballygorman, Malin.

Second Year Premium Boars.

5. Thomas Wark, Dromore, Mountcharles.

COUNTY SLIGO.

First Year Premium Boars.

1. Owen Carr, Carr, Gorteen.
2. Peter Cunningham, Mount Edward, Brough-wy.
3. John Furey, Riverstown.
4. Bryan Scanlon, Glencuala, Ballymote.
5. Owen Toolen, Meelra, Glenties, Boyle.
6. John Meehan, Killybeg, Ballymote.
7. Patrick Lynch, Annaghair, Castleblawin.
8. James McDonagh, Mahanagh, Boyle.
9. John J. Donnelly, Ardabeg, Collooney.
10. Mathias Ferguson, Kilmacnean, Cloghalee.
11. Patrick Curley, Knockawar, Kilavill, Ballymote.
12. Thomas Durkin, Carronadaleigh.

Second Year Premium Boars.

13. J. R. Barber, Knockbeg, Collooney.
14. Michael Donnan, Ashbury, Ballymote.
15. John Kelleher, Kiltarra, Banninadden.
16. Michael Henry, Castel North, Carronadaleigh.

COUNTY LETERKENNY.

First Year Premium Boars.

1. William Malin, Drunkilivry, Mohill.
2. Cornelius Ryan, Glontampher, Deemed.

Second Year Premium Boars.

3. Mrs. Eliza Reynolds, Corlough, Drumbanbo.
4. Patrick McLaughlin, Drumbanbo, Drumbanbo.
5. James Conroy, Bree, Drumbanbo.
6. Thomas Doherty, Drumbanbo, Mohill.
7. James Faghlan, Carran Lake, Annaghmore, Mohill.

COUNTY MAYO.

First Year Premium Boars.

1. Thomas Train, Aughabella, Killybeg.
2. Patrick O'Donnell, Gorteen, Claghair, Westport.
3. Patrick Duff, Ivy Cottage, Kilmone, Ballyshannon (boar stands at Kilmone).
4. Thomas Doherty, Lurga, Charlestown.
5. William Gready, Ballycastle, Mayo.

6. Michael Brennan, Ballinamorage, Islandeady, Castlebar.
7. James M'Loughlin, Ballinderrish, Knock, Ballyhanna.
8. Bryan O'Donnell, Thornhill, Kiltinagh.
9. Thomas Connock, Mullafurry, Kiltala.
10. Martin Deasy, Carrigold, Bohola, Swinford.
11. M. J. O'Grady, Kilmore, Kiltally.
12. John Callinan, Corafield, Ballymoun.
13. Thomas Durkan, Kiltan, Ballyva.
14. Michael Cawley, Cloghbarack, Bofmann, Crossmolina.
15. Michael Hopkins, Crimlin, Ross West, Castlebar.
16. Mark Loftus, Carravalela, Bannacoolan, Ballina.

Second Year Premium Beers.

17. Wm. J. Evans, Coolnafarna, Ballinlough.
18. John Ward, Taraunagh, Claremorris.
19. Thomas Moran, Park, Turlough, Castlebar.
20. Patrick Killeen, Mullonee, Ballina.
21. Patrick T. Kelly, Killogeary, Lackan, Kiltala.
22. William Roddy, Derryvane, Bannacoolan, Ballina.
23. James Murphy, Ballymartin, Kilmaine.

COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

First Year Premium Beers.

1. Michael Belone, Eden and Kinsale, Marina, Castlebar.
2. Joseph MacGuire, Fairbanks, Stronstown.
3. Edward Connors, Cloonmulla, Kiltewan, Roscommon.
4. Malachy Donnelly, Babara, Athleague, Roscommon.
5. William Glennon, Esker, Taghamacannell, Ballinacree.
6. Hugh Duffy, Tullyboy, Croghan, Boyle.
7. William Phillips, Granlahan, Ballinlough.
8. Patrick Ryan, Castlephibets, Castlebar.
9. Cormac Cox, Kingsland, Boyle.
10. Patrick Murray, Ballydangan, Ballinacree.

Second Year Premium Beers.

11. T. J. O'Brien, Miltown, Athlone.
12. Thomas Feeney, Miltown, Dysart, Ballinacree.
13. Colman McGuire, Carrorshadon, Kiltown, Athlone.
14. Edward Kelly, Laxfield, Dysart, Ballinacree.
15. Patrick M'Loughlin, Loughpark, Rosky, Droghda.
16. Patrick Lav, Garryglass, Scramogue, Stronstown.
17. Peter Davis, Lisavilla, Laxboro'.
18. John Keeney, Falmynagh, Frenchpark.
19. John Merriman, Laxfield, Ballinacree.
20. Edward Moran, Ballyvaughan, Ballinacree.
21. John Ballantine, Derryvane, Kilmactrany, Ballyvaughan, Carrick-on-Shannon.
22. Thomas O'Dowd, Oulshaven, Carrick-on-Shannon.
23. Patrick Coney, Carton, Ballinacree, Castlebar.
24. Peter M'Parland, Stronmoun, Arigna, Carrick-on-Shannon.

COUNTY GALWAY.

First Year Premium Beers.

1. Bridget Murray, Carravalela, Dunmore.
2. M. Nator, Quingaltagh, Dunmore.
3. P. Oullinan, Cahergower, Clonsilla.
4. John O'Leary, Curran, Mountbellew (Boar stands Carravalela).
5. Michael Garvey, Mountbellew, Glensmaddy.
6. P. M'Donagh, Abbey, Loughrea.
7. Patrick Cannon, Derrybreen, Gort.
8. Pat Kenny, Gortgroyan, Woodlawn.
9. Pat Fahy, Linsagrove, Ballymoe (Boar stands at Fort Lodge).
10. J. S. Boyton, Headview, Anglin.
11. M. Costello, Gortree, Achery.
12. M. Hart, Drummin, Gort.
13. D. A. Page, Gilly, Woodford.

Second Year Premium Beers.

14. Laurence Kelly, Knockasaddy, Fathagh, Barna.
15. Val Keany (Mark), Gwila, Broom.
16. Mark Finnegan, Ballymounagh, Clonbar.
17. John Murphy, Ballymoun, Kiltown, Loughrea.
18. John Keane, Cappalish, Gortree, Ballinacree.
19. Michael Hogan, Loughill, Moybeg.
20. Patrick Cook, Abbey, Ballymoun.
21. Mrs. Margaret Tracy, Knock, Miltown, Tann.
22. Michael Morris, Barnard, Ballymoun.
23. Joseph Fair, Ballymoun, Headford.
24. Thomas Glynn, Loughshannagh, Gort.
25. Patrick Fahy, Cahernon, Kilmara.
26. Thomas Corless, Mountbellew, Kilmara.
27. James Larkin, Slieve, Kiltown.
28. Mrs. Margaret Dempsey, Laxavannagh, Anglin.

COUNTY KERRY.

First Year Premium Beers.

1. John Jones, Ballymounagh, Listowel.
2. William Walsh, Daugh, via Kilmorna.
3. John Moriarty, Kilgobbin, Ardara.
4. Patrick Shaw, Annacool S.O., County Kerry.
5. Michael Mangin, Ballymounagh, Knockragh.
6. P. Glavin, Knockanore, Abbeyderry.
7. M. Sullivan, Ardahan, Kiltown.
8. John Connor, Ballymoun, O'Donogh.
9. John Roche, Ballymoun.
10. John Brennan, Ballymoun, Ballybar.
11. D. H. O'Donogh, Kilmounagh East, Abbeyfeale.
12. Michael Keane, Barnack, via Chapel, Ventry, Dingle.
13. Michael O'Shea, Farranmore, Castlegregory.
14. John Lawlor, Moneghane, Cameragh.

Second Year Premium Beers.

15. Thomas O'Connor, Glenhill, Spa, Tralee.

OWNERS OF BOARS SPECIALLY LOCATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, 1966.

COUNTY DUBLIN.

First Year Premium Beers.

1. John Meehan, Ballymoun, Newmills, Lethbridge.
2. John Shiel, Ballymoun, Kilmara.

Second Year Premium Beers.

3. James Cathcart, Carrigat.

COUNTY LIMERICK.

First Year Premium Beers.

1. Laurence-Coleman Adams, Glenfarna Hall, Glenfarna.
2. Patrick Cline, Maher, Dromed.

Second Year Premium Beers.

3. John McGowan, Corderly, Killarney.
4. James McGowan, Killybegh.

COUNTY MAYO.

First Year Premium Beers.

1. John Flynn, Seel, Scardana.
2. Maurice Durkan, Loughrea.
3. Thomas Moran, Westport.
4. John Gallagher, Clonsilla, Glenhest, Newport.
5. Thomas Moran, Blackpatch, Kilmara.
6. Patrick Marcell, Crossmolina.
7. Walter Keady, Carrickartin, Kilmara, Ballinacree.
8. Andrew Williams, Rathlacha, Ballyvaughan.

COUNTY GALWAY.

First Year Premium Beers.

1. Mrs. Julia Lydon, Shanawonee, Spiddal.
2. Patrick Mannion, Kiltown, Roscar.
3. Michael Griffin, Derryvane, Clonsilla, Maam Cross.

Second Year Premium Beers.

4. Patrick Madden, Ballymoun, Clonsilla.
5. Thomas Muller, Clonsilla, Clonsilla.
6. Edward Griffin, Rockfield, Moybeg.
7. Robert Walsh, Loughshannagh, Oghmara.
8. Rev. Brother T. J. Butler, Industrial School, Lethbridge.

APPENDIX IV

IMPROVEMENT IN SHEEP BREEDING.

In the early years of their work the Department tried a scheme for improving the breeding of sheep by a system of subsidising the rams. Sheep breeding, however, is somewhat different from the breeding of other classes of farm stock, and does not lend itself readily to a pension system. A further difficulty was experienced owing to the prevalence of sheep mab, and accordingly it was found necessary to withdraw the scheme. Recently, however, more stringent measures have been taken for the suppression of sheep mab in England, and the movement of Irish sheep having been threatened with serious obstruction, the County Councils have at last moved in the matter. In anticipation of the extinction of sheep mab, the Department have for the last two years placed a number of rams in the poorer parts of Galway, Mayo, Donegal, and Kerry. So far as possible, an effort is made to confine their use to those belonging to farmers under a certain valuation. The sheep supplied are Blackfaced, Roscommon and Christ. The rams are sold outright to the farmer at a reduced price, viz., from £3 to £2 10s. for shewlings, and £1 for ram lambs. There are, however, only a few of the latter class, as they are not likely to develop properly when put out so young. The animals, of course, cost the Department considerably more than the price charged, running to about £6 for shewlings and £2 for ram lambs.

The following is the number of rams placed out last year:—

Donegal, ...	28
Mayo, ...	28
Galway, ...	30
Kerry, ...	8
Total, ...	94

These rams were located with the following people:—

Co. DONEGAL.

1. Owen Deherly, Cloghera, Ballyfin, Carn-dough.
2. James Morrow, Haugh, Donegal.
3. James McGee, Dooh, Stranorlar.
4. Peter McLaughlin, Larnacerrilly, Ballyfin, Carn-dough.
5. Michael Grant, Ballymacormory, Ballyfin, Carn-dough.
6. Hugh McGlynn, Meenahilly, Sencor, Letter-kerry.
7. Patrick Ward, Meenahilly, Clagher, Donegal.
8. Patrick Byrne, Drinacerrilly, Glenties.
9. Joseph Ward, Carrerin, Glenties, Stranorlar.
10. John Kelly, Castlemaiden, Dooh, Stranorlar.
11. Barney O'Donnell, Crossconell, Duna, Carn-dough.
12. Daniel McGlinchey, Meenbog, Clagher, Stranorlar.
13. Charles Mooney, Meenagoland, Clagher, Glenties.
14. John Porter, Castledoherty, Malmog, Glenties.
15. Edward Boyle, Ardilly, Malmog, Glenties.
16. Daniel Brennan, Shallogan, Glenties, Glenties.
17. James Kennedy, Sencor, Lough Eke, Donegal.
18. Owen McCready, Letterlad, Easymore, Donegal.
19. Patrick McGeehan, Dromaha, Glenties, Glenties.
20. Patrick O'Donnell, Shallogan, Glenties, Glenties.
21. Neil Sheerin, Dyart, Bishane, Glenties.
22. James Kennedy, Sencor, Lough Eke, Donegal.
23. John McDaid, Letterlad, Easymore, Donegal.
24. Patrick Quinn, Meenag, Clagher, Stranorlar.
25. James O'Donnell, Meenag, Clagher, Glenties.
26. Bryan Gallagher, Ballintra, Arranmore.
27. Mary A. McGlinchey, Falcarragh, Clagher.
28. Con Callaghan, Gortinagland, Killybegs, Glenties.

Co. MAYO.

1. James Sherry, Raugh, Liscarrow, Westport.
2. John Henaghan, Conagh, Aghagower, Westport.
3. J. Tunny, Derrinacree, Drumahaire, Westport.
4. James Tunny, Ennis, Liscarrow, Mayo.
5. James Conway, Boodane, Ballycroy.
6. Edward Carney, Chaskeilly, Aghagower, Westport.

7. Thomas Gavin, Raugh, Liscarrow, Westport.
8. Anthony Derrig, Glengallin, Tournashady.
9. Thomas Killick, Clonkeen, Liscarrow.
10. Patrick Orenaghan, Letterlad, Crossconell.
11. Michael Callaghan, Townshill, Boughadown.
12. Patrick Malley, Carronevagh, Liscarrow, Westport.
13. Thomas O'Malley, Killa, Clonsilla.
14. Patrick Ruddy, Bannaghawn, Clonsilla.
15. Patrick Grady, Bannaghawn, Clonsilla.
16. John Lawless, Bishane S., Killybegs, Westport.
17. John Cornack, Aughness, Ballycroy.
18. Michael English, Mewlin, Achill.
19. John Casey, Derryack, Tournashady.
20. John Joyce, Cappaghacreevagh, Killybegs, Tournashady.
21. Patrick Gavin, Alvora, Briff, Liscarrow.
22. Patrick Henaghan, Gortinacreevagh, Tournashady.
23. James Toole, Inishack Island.
24. John Toole (Austin), Inishack.
25. John Joyce, Durian, Kilsallagh, Westport.
26. Austin Hastings, Laghura, Liscarrow.
27. Patrick Durkin, Anslane, Liscarrow.
28. Edward Malley, Fernmore, Liscarrow.
29. Peter Walsh, Killeen, Kilsallagh, Liscarrow.
30. Patrick O'Malley, Ballyboughy, Clare Island.
31. John O'Malley, Ballyboughy, Clare Island.
32. Thomas O'Malley, Cappaghacreevagh, Clare Island.
33. Patrick Gallagher, Clare Island.
34. John Malley, Clare Island.
35. Brian Malley, Clare Island.
36. John Burns, Clare Island.
37. Austin Grady, Clare Island.
38. Pat Ruddy, Clare Island.

Co. GALWAY.

1. Patrick Walsh, Thurdsland, Clifden.
2. Paddy Mullen, Carlow, Claddaghduff, Clifden.
3. Patrick Malady, Glen, Claddaghduff.
4. Michael Brown, Fankura, Clifden.
5. Patrick Gavin, Letterhanna, Clifden.
6. Anthony Nee, Letterhanna, Clifden.
7. John Coyne, Glengallinagh, Liscarrow.
8. Patrick Coyne, Glengallinagh, Liscarrow.
9. Anthony Coyne, Glengallinagh, Liscarrow.
10. John Mullen, Killeen, Aran.
11. Patrick Darcy, Gannagh, Moyneen.
12. Martin Coyne, Carronevagh, Kilmara.
13. John Coyne, Carronevagh, Kilmara.
14. Patrick Gavin, Letterhanna, Clifden.
15. Daniel Hanlon, Glenbricken, Clifden.
16. Patrick Salmon, Claddagh, Liscarrow.
17. John McLaughlin, Glengallinagh, Liscarrow.
18. Peter Coyne, Glengallinagh, Liscarrow.
19. Thomas Joyce, Glengallinagh, Liscarrow.
20. Joseph Nee, Glengallinagh, Liscarrow.

Co. KERRY.

1. Pat O'Donnell, Clonagall, Camp.
2. John O'Donnell, Camp, Camp.
3. Theo. Deen, Camp, Camp.
4. M. Brown, Gorta, Beaufort.
5. James T. Shea, Ballydoher, Beaufort.
6. M. Cashman, Brookhill, Beaufort.
7. James Connor, Curren, Beaufort.
8. John Sullivan, Curren, Beaufort.

POULTRY-KEEPING.

Poultry-keeping is of much importance to the small farmer, and is one of those sources of income which is capable of being greatly increased, when proper attention is paid to the industry. Accordingly, as compared with the rest of Ireland, a larger number of stations where eggs of pure breeds can be procured have been established in these districts. The view the Department have taken is that instruction and lectures are much less suited to the congested and poorer parts of the country than to the non-congested portions, and accordingly, while there has been a certain amount of instruction, a greater proportion of the money has been devoted to the providing of settings of eggs of pure breeds. The Department never anticipated that the system of instruction would be so popular as it has become, neither did they expect it would continue for many years, but the

demand for this class of instruction, not merely in the non-congested counties, but even in the western districts, has been, if anything, increasing from year to year. Last year, however, in order to provide more money for egg stations, the Department asked the County Committees of Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, and Mayo to suspend the actual lectures for a while and to devote all the money for poultry-lecturing on the provision of new settings of eggs. This suggestion was agreed to, and accordingly the system of lectures was more or less discontinued. Two of the teachers who were formerly employed on this work were continued, but their services were mainly confined to arranging for the supply of eggs and the inspection of the stations. The services of these two instructors being spread over the five counties, their movements have been directed from the Athenry Station. During the winter months these instructors look after the stocking of the stations and do their inspection work, while during the spring and summer they resume their demonstrations and instructions. Representatives of some of the counties, however, seem disinclined with the withdrawal of the regular lectures, which they consider to have been of great value, and accordingly, as soon as the Department have a further supply of trained teachers, it is intended to meet the wishes of the County Committees, to resume instruction next year.

The principal object of the scheme in these western districts is to improve the breeding of fowl so as to reduce the death-rate, which in some cases was excessive owing to close breeding and bad management. That there has been an improvement in this respect there is ample evidence to show. The desire of the Committee to continue this work, and the demand of the people for improved breeds, afford, perhaps, the best evidence of the value of these schemes. It is somewhat difficult to collect evidence as to the improvement in price and in the size of the eggs, but the following may, perhaps, be quoted—

SHOWING NUMBER OF EGG DISTRIBUTION STATIONS IN THE SEVEN COUNTIES DURING EACH OF THE YEARS 1901-2-3-4-5-6.

County.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	*1906.
Donegal, ..	-	-	6	9	-	-	-
Sligo, ..	-	-	-	-	8	13	3
Leitrim, ..	-	-	-	8	14	16	7
Mayo, ..	-	-	6	13	16	25	19
Roscommon, ..	-	-	30	25	30	52	6
Galway, ..	-	-	8	12	24	39	13
Kerry, ..	-	5	11	17	19	26	10
Total, ..	-	2	54	72	107	135	58

* Number of Egg Stations in Congested Districts in each County in 1906.

SHOWING NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF HOLDERS OF EGG DISTRIBUTION STATIONS IN EACH COUNTY DURING THE YEAR 1906.

COUNTY GALWAY (26).

1. Mrs. Royston, Heath View, Anghrim.
2. Mrs. Mahon, Moyort, Eyracourt.
3. Mrs. M. A. Larkin, Slievefort, Killybeg.
4. Mrs. N. Carras, Carras, Ballyphelan.
5. Mrs. M. J. Higgins, Ryehill, Moineva.
6. Mrs. Daly, Ballymonay, Duncannon.
7. Mrs. M. Delany, Pallasmore, Williamstown.
8. Mrs. E. Halper, Mountbellew.
9. Mrs. T. J. Kelly, Meallough, Ballinasloe.
10. Mrs. J. Malloy, Clagh, Ballinacrowd.
11. Mrs. Susan Casey, Waterfall, Clifden.
12. Mrs. Hanly, Letterfrack.
13. Mrs. S. McQuinn, Rightward, Oughterard.
14. Mrs. Connor, Turloughbeg.
15. Mrs. Connolly, The Forge, Spiddal.

16. Mrs. Traynor, Middlethird, Carracross.
17. Miss Cutler, Castle Bay, Ballymahon.
18. Miss Pringle, Clongaboy.
19. Mrs. M. Dwyer, Fethill, Gort.
20. Mrs. Kelly, Grange Park, Longfrea.
21. Mrs. Connolly, Carras.
22. Mrs. Taylor, The Mills, Athenry.
23. Mrs. Garvey, Glencaddy.
24. Mrs. Hallinan, Craughwell.
25. Miss O'Flaherty, Kilsie, Roscahill.
26. Mrs. Garry, Claid.
27. Mrs. Dempsey, Loughlinstown.
28. Miss King, Leenane.
29. Mrs. Mary Tracy, Carracross, Clonke.

COUNTY MAEO (36).

1. The Sisters of Mercy, The Convent, Clonsilla.
2. Mr. McNeela, Derryville, Newport.
3. Miss M. Fegan, The Nests, Ballinrobe.
4. Mrs. Donoghue, Liskfield, Balmale.
5. Mrs. Gough, Killybeg, Partry, Ballinacree.
6. Mrs. Donoghue, Monan, Longfrea.
7. Miss Casey, Tubbercurry, Lahardane.
8. Mrs. Burke, Rahma, Ballina.
9. Mrs. Jas. Lynch, Straide, Castlebar.
10. Miss Carran, Scordane, Clonsilla.
11. Mrs. Dillon, Reekree, Kinross, Killybeg.
12. Mrs. Julia Jordan, Ligon, Islandeady, Castlebar.
13. Mrs. Stuart, Ardara, Ballina.
14. Mr. Martin Costello, Carracross, Clonsilla.
15. Mr. Flaherty, Bradlow, Ballymahon.
16. Mrs. Gannon, Hornhill, Westport.
17. Mrs. Symington, Loughrea, Castlebar.
18. Mr. Staunton, Keshmora, Ballyva, Castlebar.
19. Mrs. C. McDonnell, Doolin, Ballinacree.
20. Mrs. M. McGee, Carrigrohilly, Ballinacree.
21. Mrs. L. Byrne, Liskfield, Keshmora, Ballinacree.
22. Mr. J. J. McCabe, Clonsilla, Westport.
23. Miss McCabe, Buncrana, Ashill.
24. Mrs. P. J. Kelly, Glenties, Newport.
25. Mr. M. J. Gallagher, Tullagha, Adara.

COUNTY SLIGO (12).

1. Mrs. Nicholson, Ular, Carnoy.
2. Mrs. F. Carver, Fethersham, Ballinacree.
3. Mrs. T. McGeethick, Fethersham, Ballinacree.
4. Mrs. T. Benson, Rodestown, Buncrana.
5. Mrs. Henry, Dromore House, Dromore.
6. The Superiors, The Convent, Buncrana.
7. Mrs. Brennan, Achery, Ballinacree.
8. Mrs. McMullan, Tully Lodge, Tully, Sligo.
9. Miss Keenan, Kilnet, Grange.
10. Mrs. Kavanagh, Farnham, Sligo.
11. Mrs. J. Burke, Farnham, Sligo.
12. Mrs. E. Carver, Dromore House, Dromore, Castlebar.

COUNTY LEITRIM (16).

1. Mrs. A. Johnston, Carragee, Tullaghan.
2. Mr. John McDermott, Carragee, Tullaghan.
3. Mrs. Bridget Fox, Monksill, Manorbennet.
4. Mr. John McCowan, Carragee, Tullaghan.
5. Mrs. E. Fale, Cherrybrook, Manorbennet.
6. Mr. Myles McKenna, Carragee, Tullaghan.
7. Mrs. Bernard Moran, Anghamora, Dromore.
8. Mrs. Farrell, Lody, Carragee.
9. Mrs. Owen McHugh, Dromore, Carragee.
10. Mr. Alexander McAdam, Carragee, Tullaghan.
11. Mrs. Francis O'Rourke, Mullinacree, Carragee.
12. Mr. Patrick Wynn, Carragee, Tullaghan.
13. Mr. John Donnelly, Carragee, Tullaghan.
14. Mr. J. W. Conboy, Carragee, Tullaghan.
15. Mrs. Sals McEwan, Carragee, Tullaghan.
16. Mr. Charles Donnelly, Carragee, Tullaghan.

COUNTY ROSCOMMON (21).

1. Mrs. M. A. Conaghan, Ballyvaughan, Killybeg.
2. Mrs. Anna Mullany, Ballyvaughan, Killybeg.
3. Miss B. Sealy, Carragee, Carragee.
4. Mrs. A. M. Young, Carragee, Carragee.
5. Miss Nora J. Dwyer, Carragee, Carragee.
6. Mrs. M. A. Gordon, Carragee, Carragee.
7. Mr. John McDermott, Carragee, Carragee.

APPENDIX IV

8. Mrs. Francis Ward, Carron, Lough Allen.
9. Mr. Patrick McLoughlin, Loughpark, Roskealy.
10. Bernard Naughton, Carron, Kelly, Dysart.
11. Miss M. A. McGarry, Ogilla, Telt.
12. Mrs. M. J. Doyle, Millbrook, Athlone.
13. Curran of Mercy, Roscommon.
14. Mrs. Maria Martin, Mountain, St. John's.
15. Mrs. Anne Drury, Kingland, Boyle.
16. Mrs. E. Brennan, Carracross, Kilsnoy.
17. Mrs. Kathleen M. Barrett, Meibin, Drumena.
18. Brother Superior, Grangeham Monastery, Bellelough.
19. Mrs. Edward Tobin, Derrybarr, Carrick-on-Shannon.
20. Mrs. Coleman, Knockarish, Boyle.
21. Miss E. Sheddart, Denamoon, Roscommon.

COUNTY KERRY (20).

1. Mr. D. O'Brien, Ballinamannagh, Kilmuckin.
2. Mr. P. Kearney, Ballinacraig, Ballyhan.
3. Mr. M. Buckley, Faba, Beaufort.
4. Miss K. McCarthy, Cahir, Kenmare.
5. Mrs. Downing, Derron East, Templemore.
6. Mr. John Maymnan, Glenmaguinness, Rathmore.
7. Mr. Thomas O'Connor, Camp, Ballyvaughan, Tralee.
8. Mr. John Minchery, Kilgobbin, Ardara.
9. Mrs. Stack, Moyvane South, Newtownards.
10. Mrs. E. Nolan, Moyvane House, Newtownards.
11. Mr. Timothy Lynch, Knockanure, Castle-
gregory.
12. Miss Myles, Farranaskilla, Dingle.
13. Mr. Michael Mangin, Behanagh, Keadonagh.
14. Mr. John Donovan, Beale, Ballyvaughan.
15. Mrs. Trent (Station No. 1), Toomageahy, Lis-
town.
16. Mr. Patrick Walsh, Cordal East, Castleland.
17. Mrs. Trent (Station No. 2), Toomageahy, Lis-
town.
18. Mr. Michael Shea, Farranure, Castle-
gregory.
19. Mr. James Moriarty, Mountain Stage, Glen-
beigh.
20. Mr. B. Murphy, Aghade, Bressa.

TURKEY RAISING.

This scheme too, in the western counties, has followed the same lines as in the rest of Ireland, and has been most popular; no scheme has worked better or given more satisfaction. The reports which have been collected by the inspectors and inspectors show that the introduction of these birds has effected a great increase in the quality and weight of turkeys.

Showing the number of Turkey Stations in the
SEVEN COUNTIES during each of the Years 1901-2
3-4-5-6.

County.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Donegal, ..	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Sligo, ..	-	-	-	-	-	7	2
Lisburn, ..	-	-	-	-	11	16	7
Mon, ..	-	-	-	3	4	12	7
Roscommon, ..	-	-	-	6	14	14	3
Galway, ..	-	-	-	7	23	26	4
Kerry, ..	-	-	-	12	22	28	7
Total, ..	-	-	-	22	54	83	23

* Number of Turkey Stations in City and Districts in each County in 1907.

LIST OF TURKEY STATIONS LOCATED IN EACH COUNTY DURING THE YEAR 1906.

COUNTY GALWAY (18).

1. Mrs. Julia Mulligan, Clidagh, Moycullen.
2. Miss Mary O'Flaherty, Killoola, Roscabill.
3. Miss Nora Carson, Garra, Ballyglinsk.
4. Mrs. Mary Grealy, Clod, Drumgriffin, Tuam.
5. Mrs. Rebecca Farrington, Cuslin, Ashbury.
6. Mrs. Delia Murphy, Coola, Tuam.
7. Mrs. Bridget Hughes, Mountbellew.
8. Mrs. Margaret Finn, Killeckle, Loughrea.
9. Mrs. Honora Dempsey, Imboscarra, Asghin.
10. Mrs. Bridget Molloy, Cligh.
11. Mrs. Delia Connaghan, Lowville, Ballinasloe.
12. Mrs. Delia Daly, Ballymoory, Dunmore.
13. Mrs. Mary Kelly, Menlough, Ballinasloe.
14. Mrs. Molly Walsh, Oramore.
15. Mrs. Mary Callahan, Knockanure, Gort.
16. Mrs. Delia Traynor, Middlebird, Oramore.
17. Mrs. Bridget Farnagan, Liscare, Woodlawn.
18. Mrs. Mary Burke, Corbair, Loughrea.

COUNTY MAYO (12).

1. Mrs. Julia Carr, Clooskeery, Killybegs.
2. Mrs. E. Joyce, Killybegs, Partry, Ballinacree.
3. Mrs. Belinda Watts, Crofton Park, Knock-
calton, Ballina.
4. Mrs. Ellen O'Donnell, Gorteen, Cligh.
5. Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, Barnmore, Coghall,
Castlerea.
6. Mr. Owen McManus, Beltra, Glenties.
7. Miss Agnes Scanlon, Carracastle, Balala, Swin-
ford.
8. Mrs. Louisa Costello, Calmore, Swinford.
9. Mrs. Nally, Ballydaff, Hollymount.
10. Mrs. Stewart, Ardara, Ballina.
11. Mrs. B. Scott, Bannfield, Ballina.
12. Mrs. McGloin, Gallow, Farnfield.

COUNTY SLIGO (7).

1. Mrs. F. Cowley, Fetherness, Ballinacrow.
2. Mrs. F. Barber, Castlegarra, Sligo.
3. Mrs. Thomas Benson, Roadstown, Banninacree.
4. Mrs. E. Kearney, Kilcar, Grange.
5. Mrs. B. Brennan, Ashbury, Ballymuck.
6. Mrs. M. McGettrick, Carron, Ballymuck.
7. Mrs. Killoran, Killybegs, Gorteen.

COUNTY LITTIM (14).

1. Mrs. A. Johnston, Cornagee, Tullaghan.
2. Mrs. E. Tala, Cherrybrook, Mananacree.
3. Mrs. Anne McEwen, Crovela, Drumcree.
4. Mrs. Farrell Leidy, Drumnagh, Keshcreegan.
5. Mrs. Gibbons, Kilmore, Ballinacree.
6. Mr. Alexander McAdam, Killybegs, Ballinacree.
7. Mr. Thomas Moran, Drumcree, Mehill.
8. Mr. John Donnelly, Goodrumcree, Farnfield.
9. Mr. Patrick Wynn, Drumcree, Farnfield.
10. Miss Katie McKeon, Derrahin, Ballinacree.
11. Mrs. Patrick McLoughlin, Drumcree, Drum-
shambo.
12. Mrs. John Ward, Gortilly, Drumcree.
13. Mrs. Alice McCabe, Doherty, Carrigallen.
14. Mr. Patrick O'Byrne, Mohr, Drumcree.

COUNTY ROSCOMMON (14).

1. Mrs. M. A. Cunningham, Ballybrogan, Killoon,
Athlone.
2. Mr. John McDermott, Drinnacree, Ballagha-
derreen.
3. Mr. Patrick McLoughlin, Loughpark, Roskealy,
Drumod.
4. Mrs. Bridget Naughton, Dysart, Ballinasloe.
5. Miss M. A. McGarry, Ogilla, Telt, Castlerea.
6. Mrs. M. J. Doyle, Millbrook, Athlone.
7. Mrs. Maria Martin, Mountain, St. John's,
Leamore.
8. Mrs. Winifred McGovern, Willagrove, Ballin-
tubber, Castlerea.

9. Mr. Peter McPartland, Stranorosa, Arigna.
10. Mrs. Lizzie A. Gallagher, Ballinacorney, Castle-
rea.
11. Mrs. M. J. O'Brien, Milltownpark, Athlone.
12. Mrs. E. Brennan, Carraroe, Kildare.
13. Mrs. Kathleen M. Barrett, Meelick, Drumasna.
14. Mrs. P. Wallace, Ballybane, Ballinlough.

COUNTY KERRY (13).

1. Maurice Riordan, Mountain Stags, Glenbeigh.
2. Michael Shea, Farranmore, Castlegregory.
3. Timothy Lynch, Knockacraney, Castlegregory.
4. Kate J. McCarthy, Caher, Kenmare.
5. Patrick Kearney, Ballynacorney, Ballyhar.
6. Mrs. Ellen Buckley, Knockagras, Faha.
7. Mrs. D. O'Brien, Ballinacorney, Killarney.
8. Mrs. Traut, Tournageahy, Listowel.
9. Thomas Costelloe, Trillick, Dingle.
10. William Fuller, Glencoe, Listowel.
11. Miss C. Harriott, Moyneha, Abbeydale.
12. Patrick Walsh, Cordal East, Castlerea.
13. John Moriarty, Kilgubbin, Ardara.
14. John Slattery, Oakpark, Tralee.
15. Thomas O'Connor, Morehill, Spa.
16. M. J. Wolfe, Keshon, Castlerea.
17. Daniel Catter, Morn, Knockagras.
18. John Moyrhan, Glensagrinah, Rathmore.

III.

The Special Needs of Congested Areas.

The statement submitted in Part I. is intended to illustrate the system of administration pursued by the Department in accordance with the Act of 1899. The outstanding feature of the system is the delegation of all work, which from its nature can be with fair uniformity applied over a county, to local authorities who are prepared to supplement from the rates the grant made by the Department. The outstanding feature of the work itself, as shown by the figures, is its uniformly rapid increase in volume. What the figures do not directly show, however, is the steadily improving quality of the work done. Not a single scheme ever taken up has been abandoned, although numerous changes, suggested by experience, have been made in the schemes to suit the wishes of the Committee. At the same time, in nearly every county each scheme has been increasingly made use of year by year. This improvement is due to the fact that the County Committees, the Department, and the people for whose benefit the work is intended have quickly come to understand each other.

Taken as a whole, the Agricultural Committees of the seven Western counties where congestion prevails have proved so exception to this rule. They have had special difficulties to contend with—difficulties which must be so apparent to the Commission that it is unnecessary to recapitulate them. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the Committees have made excellent progress in the non-congested parts of the counties where they have been at work for six years. Less progress has, of course, been made in the more backward areas situated as congested, but these have been for a much shorter period under the control of the County Committees. Moreover, the funds available are entirely inadequate for the work; and the people—so long accustomed to the central system of administration—negative time to become accustomed to rely on the local representative institutions. Having now got to work in the backward districts, however, the County Committees should be permitted to still further develop their operations in these localities. It would be a retrograde step to deprive them of the power with which they have been invested, and it would be disastrous to progress to set limits again to the areas under their control. The barriers between the congested and non-congested areas, which were the cause of so much administrative waste, having now been removed, and the new machinery having been set in motion, there should be no doubt as to the future policy. The influence of the local representative institutions should be extended and not curtailed, and their funds should be increased to keep pace with their growing demands.

It must be admitted that there are in these counties districts so backward that they must, for a time, receive

very special treatment by the central authority in order to bring them up to the general level of the rest of the county, so that they may eventually take full advantage of such means for agricultural development as may be provided by the local statutory body. But while these backward districts require special treatment, there is no need to shut them out from the purview of the local committees while their condition is being raised to a higher level. Special schemes, supplementary to those of the County Committee, and more suited to the needs of very poor areas, can be carried on by the Department of Agriculture simultaneously with those of the County Committee. But these special schemes should harmonise with those of the County Committee, and be, in fact as well as in name, supplementary to them. To ensure this they must be administered by the same body and by the same officers as are responsible for the supervision of the work of the County Committee. The Department's inspectors and overseers who help the Western County Committees in their work of agricultural improvement are clearly the persons who alone can see that any special treatment is made supplementary, and not antagonistic, to that provided by the County Committee. The drawbacks to a system of dual administration of public funds for agricultural development over these areas were well illustrated before 1904, when the Congested Districts Board, the County Committee, and the Department were engaged on conflicting schemes in one and the same area. The evils of that system, and the confusion to which it gave rise, must be so apparent that it seems unnecessary to dwell on the point. There is only one alternative to the present system, and that is to deprive the Department and the County Committees of their statutory powers wholly in all counties where congestion exists—in the non-congested as well as the congested parts of these counties—and to create a new agricultural development Department and Board. In the view of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, no such new machinery is necessary. The Department and the local authorities are able, ready, and eager to do the work; the initial difficulties have been overcome; the new machinery is in motion; money and a fixed policy are all that is wanted.

Before proceeding to give details of the supplementary schemes and the funds required for them, it is desirable to briefly review the general agricultural outlook and the possibilities of agricultural development in the West. A clear appreciation of these conditions is necessary if the funds are to be intelligently and profitably applied.

That agriculture in Ireland is in a backward condition everyone must admit.

"This backwardness is shown by the preponderance of uneconomic holdings; by the want of working capital, or of an inducement to invest in the improvement of land; and by the want of proper housing for the farmer and his family or for his stock. The large and steady increase in the area of second-class pasture, which might yield three or four times more wealth if well tilled; the complacent satisfaction with the present system, which relegates Ireland to the position of a ranch to supply store stock for British farmers to fatten; a too prevalent practice of selling the best and breeding from inferior stock; the almost complete loss in certain districts of the art of tillage; the want of a regular system of rotation; the aversion to doing more than the minimum to clear the land; the want of pride in the performance of farm work and in the surroundings of the homestead; the tendency to put off ploughing, sowing, and harvesting until the last moment; the small value that is put upon time; the want of recognition of the fact that the best and most productive measure that goes into the land is labour; all these, and other causes combine to make and to keep Irish farming backward."

At the same time it should be stated that in some parts of Ireland agriculture has attained to a high standard. It must be admitted that the comparison which is sometimes instituted between Irish agriculture and that existing in other countries is often unfair. The descriptions of the excellence of the practices of foreign countries are often exaggerated, and the differences in the conditions under which the two peoples labour are frequently overlooked. It is to be hoped that so soon as the Land Act of 1903

* Department's Letter 24, of "The Revival of Tillage."

APPENDIX IV.

has had time to operate it will be as much the custom to praise and encourage every effort at improvement as it is now the fashion to depreciate them; for nothing can be more depressing than the practice of constantly belittling efforts at improvement, however imperfect, and advertising the various and achievements of competition. The present is, however, a fitting time for plain speaking, and the circumstances justify some departure from what should be the general rule.

There is great room for agricultural improvement in the western districts. Compared with the agriculture of the Counties of Down and Wexford, the agricultural practices in the West is very backward. The occupiers have neither land, buildings, nor capital to enable them to carry on successfully the only system of agriculture which the soil, climate, and markets render possible.

It is difficult not to be influenced to some extent by the sentiment that surrounds these people and their methods which have very little in common with the agriculture pursued in other parts of the United Kingdom; and one almost shirks from contemplating the introduction among them of that spirit which dominates these agricultural communities so often held up as an example, but whose life is one round of ceaseless toil and careless fight against competition. The inhabitants of the West of Ireland cannot, however, be left in their present state of isolation, subject to periodic famine and a constant source of weakness to the country. They have to meet their financial obligations to the Government; they must provide means to equip their families to go out into the world. Accordingly, they must enter into competition with more advanced farmers, and any settlement of the problem must include the introduction of an improved system of agriculture suited to their soil, climate, and distance from markets.

SYSTEM OF FARMING SUITED TO THE WEST OF IRELAND.

The West of Ireland cannot be made a country of market gardens. Intensive cultivation of this nature is often recommended, but those who advocate the system forget that the districts under consideration are far removed from the great centres of population; that there are many communities of highly educated farmers far better circumstanced as to soil, climate, and situation who cannot make it pay; and that such a system argues the possibility of immediately lifting the western peasant from his present backward condition to a prominent place among agriculturists without his passing through the intermediate stages of progress.

The only system of agriculture which the soil and climate render possible is the production of roots, potatoes, corn, hay, and grass; since these commodities cannot be exported, but must be converted into beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese, eggs and poultry—products for which there is always a sale, if not a good price. This, however, is merely the system of agriculture in vogue in the rest of Ireland, and in Great Britain. To it there is no alternative. The only question to be considered is the particular line along which the western farmer should specialise.

TILLAGE AND GRAZING.

That land well tilled yields better and supports more labour than when left under grass is indisputable. The evil results of the reduction in tillage may be summed up as follows:—

“The untilled soil, left to the influence of natural forces and being constantly over-drained of its fertilising constituents by the rearing of stock, yields diminishing returns, and farms which, if tilled, could maintain two, three and four families, now support but one. The occupation of the rural tradesman, as well as that of the farm labourer, is disappearing, and instead of a country rich in a living wealth of prosperous farmers and contented labourers, all jealous of the reputation of their country-side for good and forward farming, beautiful work and trim housesteads, fences and fields, we see no signs of emulation, no improvements, and farm work regarded as drudgery.”

The larger question of whether tillage can be made to pay when undertaken on an extensive scale by owners or tenants of land who are large employers of

labour is one that does not arise here for consideration. Whatever question there may be as to the financial results of tillage on a large scale, there is no question as to the financial results on moderately sized farms where the farmer is his own labourer and is assisted by his wife as well as by such of his family as have not embarked on a career of their own. Up to the point at which he would require to become a regular employer of labour it will pay the occupier of the small holdings that are being created better to till his land than to graze it.

THE CONVERSION OF CROPS INTO ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

The possible crops are roots, potatoes, grain, grass, and hay. It has been suggested that in addition certain catch crops might be grown for forage. Some form of catch cropping is not impracticable; but the catch crop and the sowing system with which it is often associated can be made successful only under a system of first-class cultivation, good management, and where ample buildings for the accommodation of stock have been provided. These do not exist in the West at present. Of the crops above mentioned, only corn and potatoes will be used for the food of the family. The rest must be converted into products for which there is a demand, viz., store cattle, beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese, eggs and poultry. What is the outlook for the demand in these, and what are the prospects of the new occupiers engaging successfully in their production?

STORE AND FAT CATTLE.

Although the raising of cattle for beef is the chief industry in Ireland, the trade as carried on at present is most unsatisfactory. The risk attending breeding owing to abortion and miscarriage incidental to parturition, the risk of high death-rates attending calf-manning as well as the loss to the land involved in the building up of carcasses and offal, all fall on the Irish farmer, and a high proportion of it on the western occupier. The profits, with the exception of that derived from the comparatively very small number of animals that are made prime fat in Ireland, go to the cattle feeder in the east of Great Britain. There the store beast which has cost the Irish farmer so much to produce is purchased often at 4s. to 6s. per cwt. less than it is sold at when fattened. This difference is clear gain to the British and clear loss to the Irish farmer, and may amount to from 21 to 23 per cent. The value of the actual weight made by Irish bullocks in the British feeding yards on the average just pays for the food consumed. The Irish store is so to the British feeder in the first instance a market for bones grown roots, fodder and grass. The profit from fattening lies in the enhanced value which the purchased cake gives to the mature and the difference between the store and fat price of the animal.

The trade in store is unsatisfactory from another point of view. In parts of the east of Great Britain a few stores are raised as well as fattened. But these never attain to the age of many of the Irish stores; it would never pay the farmer to keep them so long. Instead, the young animals are so treated that they may be regarded as under the fattening process from date of birth until they are ready for the butcher. Growth and feeding proceed together, and the animal is sold fat at or under two years old. This is the “prime” beef which brings the top price. In Ireland the same or longer on the second-class grazing lands until two and a half or three years old, losing in the winter much of what it gains in summer, occupying ground which should produce, if not two animals in place of one, at least three in place of two. The grazing period and the fattening are not concurrent, but consecutive. To appreciate the loss involved in such delay, it must be remembered that more than two-thirds of the food consumed by a fattening ox is required for maintenance, i.e., to keep up the heat and energy of the body. It is obvious, therefore, that when fattening and growth proceed simultaneously a great saving of food is effected. An inspection of the cattle in some of the classes at the Dublin fat stock show would almost lead one to suppose from the great size and age of the animals, that in Ireland the ox is a beast of burden, as he is in some countries, where, however, roast beef, as we know it in this country, is unknown.

* Department's letter 24.—“The Rivalry of Tillage.” p. 220.

Nor is the fattening of cattle, so far as it is concerned in Ireland, satisfactory: many of the animals exported as "fat" to Great Britain cannot be properly described as such. They are in reality little better than forward stores, and many of them are brought by feeders and put into yards to be finished on the other side of the Channel.

These questions very closely concern the Royal Commission. The small western occupier is engaged in breeding and rearing the young stores, which he sells to the graziers or dealers. With the land in grass, the production of such stock cannot pay him. If he produced roots, fodder and grain, and fattened or even partly fattened them it might. The second-class grazing lands, on which it is proposed to create new holdings, at present harbour the two or three year old ox. These lands are perfectly capable of growing roots and fodder for bringing the stores more quickly to maturity. Such lands if partly tilled, while they would not carry so many cattle in summer, would carry far more in winter, and on an average of the two seasons, more than they now do under grass. If the work of dividing up these grass lands was proceeded with at a rapid rate, and if the occupants of these new holdings at once began to till their land on an extensive scale, there would be some dislocation of the store stock trade, and some inconvenience to a certain section of the agricultural community would ensue. But the creating of these holdings must take time, and to put the lands under a rotation of crops must entail a delay of three or four years. No serious dislocation of trade need, therefore, be feared. There will be ample time for the small occupier and those engaged in the store stock trade to accommodate themselves to the altered circumstances.

OUTLOOK FOR STORES AND FAT STOCK.

Even assuming that the new occupiers could in the minimum time adopt an improved system of raising stores and fattening them at an early age, as is done in Scotland, where this trade has reached its highest development, there remains the question whether the beef trade is the one which is best adapted to the conditions of Ireland, and whether there are not some other commodities into which the produce of the tilled soils could be converted so as to yield a better return. In this connection the following figures will repay study.

SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF IMPORTED DEAD MEAT AND PROVISIONS INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR THE YEARS 1888, 1895, AND 1905.

Year	Beef Ewt. Cwt.	Pork Ewt. Cwt.	Bacon Ewt. Cwt.	Butter Ewt. Cwt.	Eggs, Thous. doz.	Poultry £
1888.	561,552	277,887	3,371,751	1,983,687	1,902,797	561,552
1895.	1,199,027	2,611,625	4,043,665	2,853,662	1,536,716	661,192
1905.	1,527,621	3,512,200	5,496,980	4,147,586	2,267,718	800,432

*Figure for 1896.

SHOWING VALUE OF IMPORTED DEAD MEAT AND PROVISIONS.

Year	Beef (Fresh) per cwt.	Mutton (Fresh) per cwt.	Bacon per cwt.	Butter per cwt.	Eggs per 120.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888.	2 11 12	3 11 10	3 0 6	4 18 3	0 7 3
1895.	1 10 0	3 10 7	3 10 0	6 0 10	0 6 6
1905.	1 15 6	3 12 6	2 6 6	5 6 1	0 7 3

These figures show that the principal increase in foreign and Colonial supplies has been in meat. The competition in other agricultural produce has not been so severe. It is only the finest quality of home beef that has a chance of successfully competing with the enormous quantities of the second-class article now imported

from the Argentine, and there is no immediate prospect of such an increase in tillage and such a rapid improvement in the methods of feeding cattle in this country as would warrant the hope that Irish farmers, and more particularly the newly-created occupiers, will be able to produce prime fat beef—at its best it would be of second quality. And it must be borne in mind that the quality of the Argentine beef is likely to undergo considerable improvement in the near future. In that country cattle-breeding is creating intense interest. Agents from the Argentine are sweeping this country of the best specimens in our pastured lands. The result of this extensive importation of high-class breeding stock will be a gradual improvement in the quality of the meat exported, so that in time, instead of competing with the homed article, Argentine beef will gradually come to compete directly with prime Scottish beef itself.

A great deal has been written about the danger to the cattle trade of this country from the free importation of Canadian cattle. It is not competition with Canadian cattle, whether alive or dead, that the home trade has to fear, but competition with cattle from the Argentine. Whether Canadian cattle are admitted or not Irish stores will be dear if beef is dear, and they will be cheap if beef is cheap. The chief point about the Canadian cattle question is often overlooked, viz., that in that country stock owners have not only improved the quality of their stock, but since they were shut out of the home market in this country, they have learned to fatten and finish their animals, and whereas in former days Canadian stores were sold in this country under 25s. per cwt.—indeed some say as low as 18s.—the animals as now imported are sold at as good prices per cwt. as the average home fed cattle.

In many parts of Canada farmers now find it necessary to manure their lands. When little value was placed on farmyard manure they sent their stores to be fattened in Great Britain; now, however, it pays them better to consume their own corn with their own cattle in their own yards. In short, the Canadian farmer has learned what the Irish farmer has yet to learn, viz., that it pays better to export animals to sell as beef rather than to market them in such a condition as to command store prices. Having learned the lesson we may rest assured the Canadian will profit by it.

The importation of Canadian or other foreign cattle into the United Kingdom should be vigorously opposed, but entirely on sanitary grounds. Ireland is now so dependent upon this store stock trade that the consequences of an outbreak of disease which would prevent the exportation of stock to Great Britain would have immediate disastrous consequences.

From all these considerations there is only one conclusion, viz., that the outlook for the store and half-fat cattle trade is extremely gloomy. The only hope in successful beef production lies in the breeding of animals of the highest quality, fattening them at home right on from birth, and disposing of them prime fat at two years or under. Fluctuations in prices of course there will be, and each slight rise will so raise the hopes of those who prefer the present easy-going system of grazing and dealing in stores that they will cling to it as long as possible.

DAIRYING, PIG-REARING, AND POULTRY-KEEPING.

From a study of the statistics of the imports of food stuffs into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and the British Colonies, an example of which is given above, it would appear that the outlook as regards the pressure of competition is less gloomy with regard to dairying, pig-rearing, and poultry-keeping than in the case of cattle-raising. In recent years dairy farmers have undoubtedly held their own better than graziers and beef producers. Moreover, butter, pigs, eggs, and fowl are just the commodities specially suited to a country of small farmers. Compared with the raising of stores these forms of farming respond more quickly to the industry and personal attention of the farmer and his family. From no other style of farming is the income sure or the return quicker—a fact of great importance to the new occupiers in Ireland who cannot afford to wait long for a return for their money. A higher degree of technical skill is required to feed prize fat bullocks than to feed milking cows, pigs, or poultry. And

APPENDIX IV.

again, the buildings required on a dairy farm are somewhat less expensive than those required for a high class system of fattening cattle. It is a significant fact that in Great Britain cattle feeding is confined mainly to the eastern counties, whereas it is in the western counties, the climate of which most closely resembles that of Ireland, that the dairying industry is mainly practiced. It is significant, too, that in the west of Great Britain the dairying industry is gradually replacing mixed farming and cattle feeding. In fact in many of the western counties of Great Britain where dairying is carried on the produce of the land is nearly wholly devoted to the feeding of milk cows, and the farmers there no longer find it profitable to rear calves. They prefer to kill them off or dispose of them at a very small price soon after birth, a plan which enables them to keep a larger number of milk cows. The less profitable industry of rearing stores they leave to Ireland. The problem to them is a simple one. The cost of keeping one yearling and one two-year-old is as great as the cost of keeping a cow. But a cow yields them a better and far safer profit than two stores of the above age. If this system were resorted to in Ireland the number of milk cows could be almost doubled.

Cheese-making, which has been the most profitable of all classes of farming in recent years, requires too high a degree of technical skill to enable it to be quickly introduced into this country. For butter, however, there is still a good opening. No country has a better soil and climate for butter production than Ireland, and if butter-making should become even more unprofitable than it has been there is an outlet for the separated milk in the feeding of pigs, than which there are few industries more profitable or better understood in Ireland.

The value of eggs and poultry exported to Great Britain from Ireland in 1904 amounted to over two and three-quarter millions sterling, and this is a trade which is capable of great extension. The advantage of proximity to the market in this industry is especially in favour of the Irish farmer and the price of eggs is not falling.

The extension of dairying, pig-rearing, and poultry-keeping is not inconsistent with tillage farming. On the contrary, a considerable increase in the production of butter, bacon, eggs, and poultry can very fittingly accompany an extension of tillage. The decline in the area under tillage has been a direct cause of the decline in the number of pigs now kept in Ireland and the lack of tillage constitutes a serious drawback to the extension of the bacon industry in the country.

To sum up then, there is only one way to meet competition and that is the production of the best of everything. Stores, beef, mutton, butter, pigs, eggs, and poultry are the commodities to which the new occupiers should turn their attention, and of these butter-making, pig-feeding, and poultry-keeping offer the best prospects. Accordingly the adoption of a mixed system of farming under which the production of these could be enormously increased should be encouraged, and the new occupiers should be provided with holdings capable of enabling them to produce butter and pig and poultry products in much greater quantity.

THE ECONOMIC HOLDING.

The questions just discussed have an important bearing on the size of the new holding. If the new occupiers are to remain graziers, as is likely to be often the case, a much larger area will be required to provide for them and their families than if they till the whole or portion of their land. The Congested Districts Board regard any holding whose valuation is over £10 as economic. Since part of the valuation is doubtless in respect of buildings, such holdings must be under twenty acres of second class land. With his present standard of comfort the occupier might exist on such a holding, but if his standard of comfort is to be raised, as it undoubtedly should be raised, and if he is to be placed beyond danger of famine or distress in bad years, he will require something more than this. This question has been dealt with as follows in the Department's publication:—

"A holding, to be economic, should enable a farmer to bring up his family in a spirit of independence, to supply them with a sufficient amount of

plain wholesome food and serviceable clothing; to provide them with a fair general education; to apprentice one or more children to a business or trade; to find constant employment for himself and the son who is to succeed him, as well as to occupy profitably the spare time of other members of the family until they leave home; and, finally, to save enough to prevent his being, during old age, a burden on the son who succeeds him. To ensure this the system of farming should be somewhat elastic, so that the area under tillage may be extended or reduced, in accordance with the area and age of the family. The minimum size for a farm that will meet these conditions is to some extent determined by the two primary implements of tillage, viz., the spade and the plough. The spade can only be used economically on rich land under a system of intensive cultivation, that is, for fruit and vegetable growing, and other forms of market gardening; and as this style of farming is impossible in Ireland except in the neighbourhood of a few large cities and in certain favoured districts, Irish farmers generally must not be satisfied, under existing conditions, with a system which aims at the production of roots, potatoes, corn, hay, and grass, to be sold or converted into beef, mutton, pork, butter, eggs, and poultry. That is, they must use the plough and not the spade; and, as the efficient working of a plough necessitates the use of two horses, a holding, to be economic, should be of such a size as will keep them in work, viz., about fifty statute acres of average quality, exclusive of bog and land that cannot be cultivated or reclaimed. Two farmers, each keeping one horse, can of course co-operate, and thus provide the indispensable double pair, unless resort be had to the even more uneconomical one-horse ploughs and one-horse cultivators. This might reduce the economic area to thirty statute acres, or even, if the land be of exceptional fertility and markets good, to twenty-five. That any smaller area could be economic under the extensive system would be extremely difficult to prove."^{*}

As has been pointed out by other witnesses, it would be a mistake to adopt a uniform size of holding. Having regard to the present agricultural outlook an ideal arrangement would be to have a backbone of two-horse farms with a sprinkling of smaller ones to enable labourers and enterprising persons of small means to enter the farming class, together with here and there still larger farms in the hands of persons of capital and enterprise. The experience of other parts of the United Kingdom is that the presence of a few large farmers is often of great use to the agricultural community; the owners act as pioneers in agricultural development and set examples of good husbandry which the occupiers of the smaller holdings imitate.

THE MIGRATORY LABOURER.

The problem of the migratory labourer is as difficult as that of the economic holding. If the occupant of one of the new holdings is to spend part of his time in Great Britain he cannot obviously till his land properly, and accordingly the migratory labourer should not be given an economic holding. On the other hand, if he continues to work part of the time in Scotland and England and visits for the remainder of the year on his patch on the western seaboard his presence will be a continual source of weakness to the country. The British farmer and landowner doubtless are highly satisfied with the present arrangement. It enables them to avoid providing cottages for their labourers; they are relieved of the responsibility of a labouring population; they have no competition in putting their lands to grass and dispensing with the labourer altogether; they are relieved from the presence of their labourers when they become old, infirm, or sick. These the ratepayers of the western counties have to support.

Fortunately, the area under tillage in several parts of Great Britain, which the Irish migratory labourer frequents, is not diminishing, but should that occur, and should there be no more work for the Irish labourer there, his presence in the West of Ireland would then become very serious indeed. However important it may be that there should be a good population in the West of Ireland, the presence of a

^{*} Department's leaflet 34, "The Revival of Tillage."

large number of migratory labourers, whose existence and freedom from distress depend largely on the state of tillage in Great Britain, may be a blessing, but it is certainly not an unmitigated one.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

To return to the question of agricultural development on the new and enlarged holdings now being established. It may be said that many of these new holdings can be improved, and, with good management, made to support a family in a higher standard of comfort than now prevails in the West. In this sense, and that sense only, can a thirty-acre holding of fair land be described as economic. The holdings of half that size and under cannot certainly be improved so as to make them economic in any sense of the term if the farmer and his family are to be wholly dependent on them, if a decent standard of comfort is to be maintained.

But to ensure success there is more than land wanted. Agriculturists in the whole of the United Kingdom must face foreign competition, and the new occupiers have a still harder task before them, for they have to compete with improved systems of farming in other parts of the Kingdom. They must, accordingly, be equipped as well as their competitors, and for this there is required, in addition to the land, buildings, capital and education—including organisation.

FARM BUILDINGS.

The Royal Commission will doubtless have had before them the Report and Minutes of Evidence of the Departmental Committee on Small Holdings in Great Britain. The problem which was dealt with by that Committee is very closely allied to that into which the Royal Commission is now inquiring. The question of buildings was one that received a great deal of attention from the Departmental Committee. They appeared to have thoroughly appreciated that one of the difficulties in creating small holdings in Great Britain is the cost of providing buildings. In the view of the Department of Agriculture, this question has not received sufficient attention in this country. In Great Britain the cost of buildings on a holding from thirty to forty acres is estimated at from £300 to £400, or about £10 per acre. On some estates the cost of the buildings has been as much as £15 per acre. The amount may appear extravagant, and it may be possible in Ireland to get on with a smaller sum, but in Ireland building is not cheaper than in Great Britain. And if the new occupiers in the West are expected to compete successfully with farmers in Great Britain, if they are to attempt to keep their stocks until they are ready to be fattened, or to fatten them themselves, or successfully to carry on dairying and cognate industries, it will be necessary under a system of tillage farming, where the crops grown have to be fed to the animals, to provide suitable farm buildings. Without these buildings the occupiers must remain graders, the Department's efforts to encourage improvement in the management of such holdings, particularly in the matter of tillage, can have little effect, and the occupier must continue in his present position of dependence upon British agriculture, and subject to whatever changes it may undergo.

The provision made by the Congested Districts Board on new holdings appears to comprise a cottage suited to a labourer, while as out-office a shed about 16 feet by 12 feet, without any internal fittings for the accommodation of live stock, and costing £22 10s. is considered sufficient. On some of the new holdings created out of grass lands in the West the Estate Commissioners put up neither houses for the occupier nor accommodation for his cattle, but advances a sum of £30 toward their provision. The system of giving the farmer a sum of money to spend on buildings himself is undoubtedly the better plan. The above provision is, however, totally inadequate to meet the situation if the new occupier is to be something more than a grader, and is to attempt to turn a grader into a farmer of whatever kind, whether it be calf rearing, the raising of stores, the fattening of bullocks, or butter-making. He must have accommodation for his cows, for his young cattle, a stall for his horse, housing for his pigs and poultry, and a barn or store for his feeding stuffs. Without such accommodation it would be hopeless for him to expect to be able to compete with the British farmer

Very few of the new occupiers are able to adequately stock their lands, and even when they are in a position to do so, they require every penny of their small capital for the purpose. If their limited capital is to go into building a house and providing accommodation for their stock, how are they to work their holdings, and pay their annuities? They must let their farms to graders and hire themselves as labourers in this country or in Great Britain. It must surely be possible as it is desirable, to place them in a better financial position. Instead of £30 in the above cases, four times the amount will often be required. The improved position as regards the working of their farms in which they would thus be placed would, if there is any truth in the statement that tilled yields more than untilled land, more than justify the addition to the annuity which an additional £300 for buildings would necessitate.

The first proposal, therefore, which the Department submit is that, in order that the new holders in the west may be able to develop under the County Committees' and the Department's schemes from grazing to tillage and dairy farming, the advance for buildings erected under supervision should be adequate to provide houses suited to a mixed grass and tillage farm. The enhanced value of the holding and the facilities for increasing the income from the farm which this equipment would mean would more than justify the consequent increase in the purchase annuity.

For example, an advance of £100 means an addition to the purchase annuity of £5 3s. 6d., but the increased profit from one acre of roots and one of oats used as winter feeding in suitable farm buildings would alone cover this addition to the annuity.

The Department desire to urge this question upon the attention of the members of the Royal Commission, since upon it must depend in great measure the success or failure of the new legislation and the success of the efforts of the Department to improve agricultural methods. It would be deplorable if the new scheme of land settlement which promises so well should result in nothing more than mere shuffling of grass lands into small farms. But unless the land department, or some other department, can make provision for buildings no substantial improvement in tillage can be expected.

WORKING CAPITAL.

Assuming then that the land department creates the holdings and provides suitable buildings, the Department of Agriculture can, if supplied with sufficient funds, provide for working capital, education and organisation, and attend to the improvement of stock. Progress, however, will be slow. Many of the new occupiers having been reared on grange farms will have to be taught the use of the plough and other farm implements, as well as the advantages of suitable rotations of crops. The value of the live and dead stock on a well-equipped thirty-acre farm of mixed tillage should amount to about £8 per acre. Where the occupier is not in a position to command at least £5 per acre a system whereby the Department of Agriculture can lend him the money on easy terms would be advantageous. Agricultural banks as at present organised would not provide the additional capital which the exceptional circumstances of the new position would render necessary.

Interviews with representatives of the Department recently had with several of the new occupiers have gone to show that the majority of them require a loan of at least £50 to enable them to get stock for their land. Under existing arrangements the spare capital of many will all be required for the erection of a dwelling house and temporary sheds for stock.

In addition to lending money to agricultural banks the Department of Agriculture have a system of granting loans for the purchase of stores, and recently money has been lent for the erection of fencing. If, as will be described below, the country is mapped out and placed under the charge of itinerant officers or instructors who will be well acquainted with the circumstances of the occupiers of holdings, the Department of Agriculture can easily extend this system of loans for the purchase of ordinary stock and

APPENDIX IV.

implements, or other reproductive purposes outside the scope of the Raffles Bank. The new occupier has his anxiety to pay, and with the keen competition he has to meet it cannot be expected that he can do so without stock.

Without such a system of agricultural credit it will be practically impossible for the new occupier to obtain the full profit of his farm, or indeed to escape from letting his land for grazing on the eleven months' system.

The second proposal then which the Department of Agriculture desire to place before the Royal Commission is that a substantial sum should be provided for temporary loans at low interest for working capital for the new occupiers as might be required by them. These loans to be given by the Department and expended under the supervision of the Department's overseers or instructors.

EDUCATION.

The second of the requirements of the new holders which the Department can supply is education. By education is to be understood not so much systematic technical instruction as practical instruction in the cultivation of the soil and the sowing and raising of crops, the breeding and feeding of stock, the use and purchase of implements, manures, seeds, and feeding stuffs, as well as many other forms of land improvement such as draining, liming, and fencing. In other countries this education has been provided by the philanthropic landlord setting an example on his home farm and rendering assistance in the improvement of stock by the introduction of high-class sires; by the example set by successful farmers who work their land on improved principles; and in later years by the agricultural press, and by systematic agricultural education mainly in the form of itinerant instruction, and field experiments and demonstrations.

In the West of Ireland the home farm and the large enterprising agriculturist are practically non-existent. They may therefore be credited as factors in the problem under consideration. Under the existing conditions the agricultural press cannot be expected to exercise much influence as an educational medium in these districts. The part played in other countries by the philanthropic landlord in the improvement of live stock is being exercised by the Department and the County Committees, and with more funds can be very much extended. For the inculcation of the rules of good husbandry, however, the situation is one in which the itinerant instructor can play an important part. In other countries he has proved a success; without him it is difficult to see how progress can be made in Ireland.

ORGANISATION.

But without organisation the work must be slow. The Department, even the Itinerant Instructor himself, cannot deal with individuals unless at great expense. The cost alone of providing an Instructor who could make periodic visits to every farmer would be enormous and indeed unnecessary. The first and most essential work is the organising of the farmers into small societies. Let us assume a group of, say, twenty new holdings of thirty acres each. The first consideration of the occupiers will be the erection of a dwellinghouse, and for this they require lime, cement, timber, slates, and house fixtures. The advantage of their combining together to procure these requisites is so obvious that it is unnecessary to dwell upon the point. Many of them, as in the crofting districts of Scotland, may with their own hands be able to build the walls of their outhouses, but they will require a carpenter and slater to finish the work. It is equally obvious that they can co-operate in the employment of such tradesmen more cheaply than if they do the work independently of each other. Each farmer, too, if he is going to till his land will require the use of a plough, a set of harrows, a cultivator, drill plough, roller, lamp sowing machine, and a variety of other implements. But it would be sheer waste of money for twenty of these occupiers to each provide himself with one of these implements. Twenty ploughs, twenty rollers, twenty sets of harrows are wholly unnecessary; one-fourth of this number would be sufficient, and the capital thereby saved is badly wanted to stock the land. So also if tillage is to be a success the farmer must have the use of a threshing mill as well as machinery for clearing the grain.

But a threshing mill is somewhat expensive, and it would be obviously waste of resources for each of these twenty farmers to provide this machinery for himself. Moreover, if they did so no single farmer could afford to provide the power to drive it. What is to prevent them jointly sharing the use of one good barn, a threshing floor, and the necessary machinery? Nothing, if they be organized. Similarly, with regard to the purchase of manures, feeding stuffs, seeds, and other requisites, money and time can be saved by co-operative purchase of all these necessities. The need for co-operation and its advantages have been fully recognised, but organisation must precede effective co-operation.

To come now to the actual problem of agricultural development in the poorer western districts. At present the position stands thus. New machinery has been got into motion; the County Committees have taken these districts within the scope of their operations, and since the congested districts are scattered and intersected by non-congested areas it is impossible to deal with them separately. The County Committees should not be disturbed in their work. On the contrary their funds should be greatly increased in order to enable the existing schemes to be considerably developed.

The third proposal which the Department puts forward is—that a sum of about £20,000 per annum should be provided and earmarked for expenditure on special supplementary schemes of agricultural development in the backward districts, in the administration of which the Department and the Agricultural Board should have the assistance and co-operation of a body of men having a special knowledge of the circumstances of the people to be benefited.

The objects on which this money would be spent comprise:—

1. Agricultural Stations and Depots.
2. Itinerant Instruction. Demonstration Plots. Champs of Seed. Spraying, etc.
3. Agricultural education for girls.
4. Improvement of live stock.
5. Lending money for the purchase of stock and other farm requisites on easy terms of repayment.
6. Organisation.

AGRICULTURAL STATIONS.

If the Royal Commission will examine the figures showing the progress of the live stock schemes in Galway and Mayo since 1902 they will note the very rapid development that has taken place in the last few years. The progress thus made is directly attributable to the establishment at Athlery of an agricultural station. Before this station was established, the live stock schemes in these counties suffered severely through the action of some of the more enterprising of other counties whose representatives bought up the majority of the stock available for service early in the year. With the establishment of the station, however, and the erection of buildings for the housing of stock, the Department were able to purchase drafts of sires early in the year and house them at Athlery until the backward districts were ready for them. A somewhat similar station, but on a much smaller scale, is required to serve the congested districts of Kerry and Cork, another for Donegal, and perhaps a fourth for Mayo and Leitrim. Such stations would serve as sub-offices where the numerous letters relating to questions of only personal or local importance would be dealt with. At present, the large number of these frequently clogs the machinery of the Central Department. At these centres too the Department's Inspectors for the districts would be located, and have too the Committee to advise the Department with regard to expenditure on special schemes for the districts might meet instead of in Dublin.

ITINERANT INSTRUCTION.

Nearly every County Committee in Ireland has now secured the services of a highly trained Itinerant Instructor in Agriculture, and all the congested counties but one, have now such an officer. But in the Western counties where the holdings will be newly created, and where the A-E-C of agriculture will have

to be taught, not one, but many such instructors will be required. These men need not have the highest technical or scientific qualifications, since their work will be supervised by one instructor who has had such a training. The number of such instructors who could be profitably employed is a question that would require careful consideration by the officers of the Department and by the local advisory committee which it is proposed to create. That each farmer should have, as has been suggested, such an instructor at his elbow is obviously out of the question. But if the farmers to be organised it appears to the Department about thirty such officers in the congested districts concerned would meet the case. As a basis of discussion the Department suggest that one of these officers should be placed at each of the following centres:—

PROPOSED CENTRES FOR AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTORS IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

County Galway.	County Donegal.
Clonkar.	Carriel.
Leenane.	Glenties.
Clifden.	Gweedore.
Carra.	Carrigart.
Inverin.	Carnalough.
Oughterard.	
County Mayo.	County Leitrim.
Lislinbeg.	Drumkeeran.
Westport.	Mohill.
Tommakadee.	
Malinbeg.	County Kerry.
Belmullet.	Trillick.
Belderrig.	Dirigla.
Foxford.	Cahersiveen.
Swinfard.	Kemara.
Belinagadeen.	
Ballyvaughan.	County Cork.
	Bantry.
County Sligo.	Skenell.
Trehourary.	

The duties of these instructors would differ from those of the county instructor in that practical education rather than technical would be their first object. For this purpose the instructor should be provided with a dwelling-house in the centre of his district, and to this residence there might be attached a few acres of land to serve as a demonstration farm and depot with a few inexpensive buildings for the temporary housing of bulls, boars, ewes and rams under the live stock schemes. Under the present system the selection of sires is, by the desire of the people themselves, very often left to the Department's officers. The farmer should be encouraged to exercise his own judgment in the selection of the sire he proposes to use. If he cannot come to the principal agricultural station for his Province he can at least visit the local depot and make a selection from a few animals that can be placed there from time to time. In the event of these animals becoming disabled through accident or sickness when in the hands of the farmers, they could be housed at the local depot, and a very great deal of expenditure which is now incurred in railing such animals to Dublin, or even to Athlone, would be saved. It would be also the duty of the instructor to systematically visit the holdings in his district, to consult with and advise the occupiers as to the best means of laying out their farms, tilling their land, purchasing their seeds and manures, breeding, and feeding their stock and disposing of their produce.

One of his chief duties would be to provide for the periodic introduction of fresh seed into his district, particularly of seed potatoes, irrespective of periodic diseases or failure from blight. The supervision of the spraying of the potato crop would, of course, be an important part of his duties. At the local depot could be kept a supply of spraying machines and spraying materials, as well as other machines and farm requisites that from their nature could be lost out. Finally, the instructor would act as the eyes and ears of the Department, and as such exercise

control and watch the expenditure of loans of money which have already been shown to be necessary if intensive agriculture is to be adapted to any extent in these districts.

Some little time must necessarily elapse before such a service could be efficiently established. A commencement should be made in those districts where the land has already been transferred to the occupiers either by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners. In the first years there would be an unexpended balance of the annual grant. This would be used as a capital sum to provide houses for the instructors, the buildings attached thereto as well as equipment.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOR GIRLS.

No scheme of agricultural development would be complete which neglected the question of the training of the young women who would be called upon in one capacity or another to assist in the work of the farmer. The farmer of thirty acres of land must be his own ploughman, and as far as possible his own labourer. His financial success or failure must largely depend upon the industry and skill which his wife, daughters, or sisters bring to bear on the management of his house, the dairy, the pigs and poultry. Accordingly, the Department lay great stress on the need for providing education for women, not only by the present system of itinerant instruction which is meeting with pronounced success in nearly all the counties, but by systematic instruction at local schools for girls. Two such schools have been already established in the western districts to demonstrate the class of instruction which the Department desire to provide; one a day school at Lough Glynn, and the other a residential and day school at Westport. The Department prefer the Lough Glynn type, though smaller schools would in most districts meet the case. Where a religious community is not available there would often be no difficulty in having these staffed and managed by lay teachers. In order that the instruction may be of a character which will not have the effect of homeing the maid which their homes have upon these girls, the Department prefer the day to the residential school. The girls reside at home and attend the school as they find it convenient to learn the domestic duties which are so requisite in the making of a bright farm homestead as well as those duties which are usually included under the term, farmyard lore.

IMPROVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK.

The improvement of live stock by the introduction of sires need only occupy a few sentences. This form of improvement is that which the farmers most appreciate, and in the past has been the form of encouragement which has been of most direct benefit to them. For this reason the small sum which was placed at the disposal of the Department by the Congested Districts Board, and which has been annually supplemented by the Agricultural Board has been devoted mainly to the provision of sires. What is wanted is an extension of the work, i.e., the supply of more sires, but this the pressure of the simultaneous action of thirty-three counties on the available supply has rendered difficult with the present funds.

LOANS OF WORKING CAPITAL.

The cost of administering a loan fund for reproductive purposes would be a charge on the annual grant for agricultural development. It would not be large if the people are organised, and if the local instructors are charged with the duty of seeing the loans properly applied.

COST OF SCHEME.

The calculation of the cost of such a scheme as is here outlined needs more careful revision than has been found possible to bestow upon it. As a basis of discussion, however, the following estimate may be submitted without prejudice to any decision at which

APPENDIX IV.

The Department and the Agricultural Board, with the assistance of an advisory committee, may ultimately arrive.

Annual Expenditure.

Salaries and expenses of 30 Itinerant Instructors,	£1,500
Labour and working expenses at 30 local centres or depots,	2,000
Cost of introducing a charge of seed at ten local centres,	1,500
Cost of seeds and manures for demonstration purposes,	1,500
Loss on implements for hire, including spraying machines,	1,000
Part maintenance of three agricultural stations,	1,500
Annuity on purchase of 30 small farms for local depots,	500
Live Stock:—	
300 Bulls, ...	£4,000
300 Boars, ...	1,500
300 Ewes, ...	1,500
20 Stallions, ...	1,000
50 Aries, ...	500
Renewals of horses and asses	700
	2,000
Poultry:—	
100 Egg stations, ...	500
100 Turkey Stations, ...	200
100 Geese stations, ...	200
	500
Thirty Agricultural Schools for Girls, ...	2,000
Cost of organisation, ...	1,000
Total, ...	£21,500

How would all this harmonise with the work now being carried on by the statutory bodies—the County Committees? If a public department other than the Department of Agriculture undertakes the work there must be overlapping, duplication, competition in the purchase of sites, and worse still, confusion owing to the concurrent operation of a number of different schemes—in fact a repetition of what took place when the Congested Districts Board, the Department, and the County Committees operated in the same areas. A similar conflict it may be added, must inevitably arise sooner or later with the farm price schemes of the County Committees and the Parish Committee schemes of the Congested Districts Board. If the work is to be done by the Department one set of inspectors will suffice for the county work and for the supplementary schemes; the difficulty presented by the question of raising a rate will disappear as well as difficulties which will arise if County Councils from the excluded districts have the right as they had prior to 1904 of voting for or against schemes introduced only for the non-congested districts. County Committees will interest themselves more and more in these supplementary schemes; already more than one Committee had expressed a desire to administer not only the funds contributed jointly by the Department and by the County Council but the supplementary funds which the Department are applying in the congested districts. There is no reason why, as time goes on, they should not do so, and as their interest in the work increases, and their machinery becomes perfected, they might even be allowed to undertake the administration of the whole of these supplementary funds if the country so desires.

THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT POLICY.

There remains one aspect of this problem and it is feeling that it should be brought before the Commission. Experience has shown that a few years of such work as has been described is not sufficient to establish the reforms that are necessary. Even on the very farms which have been used as models all improvements have often disappeared with the instructor. Even such an operation as the spraying of the potato crop which has been taught and demonstrated in almost every corner of the congested districts and which everyone is now satisfied is a necessary operation in the cultivation of this crop was neglected last year owing, as we were told, to the want of someone on the spot

to stimulate the owners to activity and self-help. The lesson which this teaches is obvious, viz., that it is not sufficient to demonstrate improved methods to existing farmers, instruction in such methods must be continued until there has arisen a new generation who know not the old methods; in short until such methods have become established and recognised as part of the routine of farm practice. The withdrawal of the grant by the Congested Districts Board in 1904 and the policy then decided upon by the Government and recorded in Mr. Wyndham's Minute of deferring the secondary work at education until the primary work of land settlement had been accomplished was far more disastrous than might, at first sight, appear. For many years the Congested Districts Board had laboured in these districts and one of their greatest achievements was the establishment of a machinery which, for several years prior to 1904, had been productive of good results. Owing to the lack of funds this machinery has, in a great measure, gone out of action. And under any new scheme of agricultural development much time, energy, and money must be expended before it is again properly set in motion. One of the objections to any restriction of the operations of County Committees in congested areas is the fact that these bodies have also spent much time, energy, and money in getting their machinery in working order, and all this would have to be sacrificed if barriers were again set up between the backward and the more prosperous districts. The requirements of the western districts are indeed numerous, but more than anything else there is wanted a definite policy with which nothing will be allowed to interfere, with which no rival schemes will clash, and which will be consistently administered and adequately financed for at least a quarter of a century.

Leaflet No. 34.

B.—LEAFLET (No. 34) ON THE REVIVAL OF TILLAGE IN IRELAND.

The backwardness of agriculture in some parts of Ireland is well known, and has been so often commented upon that one feels reluctant to refer to it again; for there can be nothing so discouraging to those farmers who are doing their best under adverse conditions as to be constantly told that their system compares unfavourably with that pursued elsewhere, and to have held up to them as an example a flattering picture of the practice of other countries. Nevertheless, it is imperative to enquire into the main points in which our agriculture is deficient before attempting to make suggestions intended to be helpful. Valuable ideas for the improvement of agriculture may be got, and have been got, by visiting other countries; but, as the Department have always endeavoured to make clear, more harm than good might be done by these ideas, if inexperienced persons were to advocate the wholesale introduction of a Continental system, without due regard to, and very careful study of the peculiarities of Irish soil, climate, and economic conditions. Ireland itself is the first place, and, after due note has been taken of methods and conditions elsewhere, the final place where one should study and determine what improvements are possible and desirable in Irish agriculture, and how such improvements may be best effected.

Signs of the backward state of Farming in Ireland.

The backwardness of agriculture in Ireland manifests itself in a number of ways. The preponderance of uneconomic holdings; the want of working capital or of an instrument to invest in the improvement of land; the want of proper housing for the farmer and his family or for his stock; the large and steady increase in the area of second-class pasture, which would yield four times more wealth if well tilled; the complete satisfaction with the present system which relegates Ireland to the position of a ranch to supply store stock for British farmers to fatten; a too prevalent practice of selling the best and breeding from

inferior stock; the almost complete loss in certain districts of the art of tillage; the want of a regular system of rotations; the aversion from doing more than the minimum to clean the land; the want of pride in the performance of farm work and in the arrangements about the homestead; the tendency to put off ploughing, sowing, and harvesting until the last moment; the small value that is put upon time; the want of recognition of the fact that the best and most productive manner that goes into the land is labour—all these and other causes combine to make and to keep Irish farming backward.

Self-Help and Working Capital needed.

It is not intended to discuss here the forces which have, in the past, moulded Irish agriculture into its present form. It is the duty of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland to try to help in its improvement; and the present articles and those of a more practical nature to follow are intended to stimulate thought on the subject. But no Department can render much effective aid to the farmers of Ireland, unless they individually and collectively begin themselves and resolve each to do a man's share in the revival of our agriculture, and to make it all that soil and climate render possible.

The operation of the new Land Act will, it is hoped, remove one obstacle—that of dual ownership. The greatest bar to progress will then be the existence of an excessively high proportion of holdings which no abolition of dual ownership—nor even of rent itself—could render economic. Next to this, and closely connected with it, is the serious want of working capital.

What constitutes an Economic Holding?

The question as to what area constitutes an economic holding is an exceedingly complex problem, and surpasses all others in importance; for if holdings be not made economic all other efforts are doomed to failure. Those who are interested in the subject should not fail to read the Department's Report on the Agricultural Statistics of Ireland for 1902, where the subject has been dealt with at some length.

A holding, to be economic, should enable a farmer to bring up his family in a spirit of independence, to supply them with a sufficient amount of plain wholesome food and serviceable clothing; to provide them with a fair general education; to apprentice one or more children to a business or trade; to find constant employment for himself and the son who is to succeed him, as well as to occupy profitably the spare time of other members of the family until they leave home; and, finally, to save enough to prevent his being, during old age, a burden on the son who succeeds him. To ensure this the system of farming should be somewhat elastic, so that the area under tillage may be extended or reduced, in accordance with the size and age of the family. The minimum size for a farm that will meet these conditions is to some extent determined by the two primary implements of tillage, viz. the spade and the plough. The spade can only be used economically on rich land under a system of intensive cultivation, that is, for fruit and flower growing, and other forms of market gardening; and as this style of farming is impossible in Ireland except in the neighbourhood of a few large cities and in certain favoured districts, Irish farmers generally must rest satisfied, under existing conditions, with a system which aims at the production of roots, potatoes, corn, hay, and grass, to be sold or converted into beef, mutton, pigs, butter, eggs, and poultry. That is, they must use the plough and not the spade; and, as the efficient working of a plough necessitates the use of two horses, a holding, to be economic, should be of such a size as will keep them in work, viz. about fifty statute acres of average quality, exclusive of bog and land that cannot be cultivated or reclaimed. Two farmers, each keeping one horse, can of course co-operate, and thus provide the indispensable double yoke, unless resort be had to the even more unsatisfactory one-horse ploughs and one-horse cultivators. This might reduce the

economic area to thirty statute acres, or even, if the area be of exceptional fertility and surface good, to twenty-five. That any smaller area could be economic under the extensive system would be extremely difficult to prove. How far we at present are from a healthy state is forced upon us by the fact that out of our 590,000 holdings 330,000 (exclusive of those "not exceeding 1 acre") do not exceed thirty statute acres in extent. In point of fact, about three-fifths of the farmers of Ireland are crowded on one-fourth of the land—and that, too, broadly speaking, the poorest. The following data are taken from the Report referred to on the preceding page. The gravity of the situation, and the fact that everyone may not have studied or fully realised the significance of the figures, must serve as an excuse for again forcing them on the attention of the reader.

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	Number of Holdings	Amount of Cultivated Area of Holdings in Statute Acres.
Not exceeding 1 acre.	—	14,007
Above 1 acre and not exceeding 5 acres.	—	42,064
5 acres	—	39,437
10 "	—	33,366
20 "	—	24,380
50 "	—	21,062
100 "	—	21,041
200 "	—	21,041
500 "	—	1,328

Should the Area under Tillage be Extended?

The question, however, which more immediately demands our attention here, and which ranks next in importance to those of the minimum size of a holding and the provision of working capital, is whether a more extended and intensive system of tillage would not prove more remunerative. It must certainly would increase the national wealth: it would supply work for the labourers and tradesmen: it would check emigration.

The present occasion is somewhat inopportune for trying this course, since tillage farmers are now suffering from the effects of the recent bad harvest; but we must believe that there are good as well as bad seasons in store for Irish farmers. What they have to consider, therefore, is not the profits of a very good harvest or the losses of a bad one, but the return which they may expect in a series of years. It would be unfair to expect any competer to manage his holding at a loss. If, however, it can be shown that by adopting the most improved methods, and by the employment of all the spare labour available, he can insure as good a return for himself and his family as if the land were under grass, it becomes his obvious duty and interest to extend his tillage operations. No one will deny that land well tilled yields better and supports more labour than when left out to grass. The question for the farmer, and indeed for the whole country, is what are the comparative net returns under the two systems? If the result to the competer be the same, it is plainly his duty to adopt that system which provides the greatest amount of employment and the greatest national wealth, viz. tillage farming. The difficulty of obtaining skilled labour, and the greater trouble and risk attendant upon such farming, have, perhaps, as much to do with the reduction in the area under the plough as has any consideration of net returns. The most general explanation of the decline in tillage is the want of labour; but labourers must continue to forsake the land if the competer ceases to till it. This is a case where the demand must certainly precede the supply. In any case, if tillage gives a higher gross return than grass there is no excuse on the score of the want of labour for a farmer who does not till sufficient land to fully occupy his whole time and that of those of his family who remain at home.

APPENDIX IV. *Effects of the Reduction of the Area Under Tillage.*

The results of the reduction in tillage can be seen in almost every district in Ireland. The unaided soil, left to the influence of natural forces and being constantly over-drained of its fertilising constituents by the roasting of stone stock, yields diminishing returns, and farms which, if tilled, could maintain two, three, and four families, now support but one. The occupation of the rural tradesman, as well as that of the farm labourer, is disappearing; and instead of a country rich in a living wealth of prosperous farmers and contented labourers, all jealous of the reputation of their country-side for good and forward farming, beautiful work and trim homesteads, fences, and fields, we see no signs of cultivation, no improvements, farm work regarded as drudgery, and the area under tillage rapidly shrinking. What an atmosphere in which to rear the youth of a country that can be nothing if it is not agricultural!

Store Cattle Trade with Great Britain.

The apparent satisfaction with which Irish farmers are content to produce stores for the British farmer to fatten, and the ready acquiescence of the latter in the arrangement, are aspects of the question that merit more careful consideration than has yet been given to them. The trade is very precarious. It is rendered possible only by the immunity of our cattle from contagious diseases. But notwithstanding the vigilance of the Veterinary Branch of the Department disease might readily break out. Foot-and-mouth disease appeared in England two years ago, and no one can say where or when it might appear in this country; and it is difficult to realise the serious consequences to Irish farmers if it, or some equally dreaded disease, did appear. The trade, if Ireland was not so dependent upon it, has some advantages to our farmers, but still more to British farmers; for it must be borne in mind that store cattle deteriorate land and the fattening of cattle improves it. The bone, muscle, and, indeed, every tissue of the store ox, have been made at the expense of the fertility of the land on which he was reared. These animals, when exported, are often full grown or nearly so. The business of the British feeder is mainly to add to the lean muscle, and to increase the value of every cwt. of original carcass. If the value of the increase in weight merely pays for the food consumed, as is often the case, the British farmer has still a further asset, for fat, it should be remembered, is a substance which, unlike bone or muscle, has no measure value, and its sale does not decrease the fertility of the farm. Hence most of the material constituents of the calves and other feeding stuffs which are used in fattening are not retained by the animal, but are expelled in excrements which help to enrich the farmer's land and to reduce substantially his manure bills. Thus do Irish farmers complacently see their land impoverished, and profits which they themselves should earn pass into the hands of others. Thus, too, the British feeder turns the potential value of the lean ox into actual gain, and is able to do so because he adopts a regular rotation, growing a considerable area of roots for winter feeding, while he retains his best pastures for summer fattening. This is exactly what we need in Ireland. All second-class lands should be under a system of mixed farming, of which at least one-eighth should be in roots wherever it is better than some of the stores that now go to Great Britain, and so keep in this country the profits of converting lean into fat bullocks.

Systems of Farming.

While under a system of good husbandry the root crop is essential for winter feeding, first-class grass lands are equally so for summer feeding. If Ireland could not produce roots, or if she possessed no rich grazing lands, it might be necessary, under any system of cattle breeding, to depend, as we now do, on Great Britain. But Ireland can actually grow better roots and better grass than England, and may therefore, so far as the fattening of cattle is concerned, be independent of her. But it may be asked whether a system of farming of which roots and grass are the dominant features is the only one suited to Ireland, and that which should be advocated. It rests with

those who answer in the negative to show what other system of farming is practicable. Those who would like to see Ireland a more grazing ranch are unfortunately very few. Those who have dreams of an Ireland of market gardens are more numerous, but they overlook some of the most obvious conditions of this unpopular country and uncertain climate. The only alternative to a system of roots, grain, hay and pasture seems to be the soiling system practised in some parts of the Continent, under which the animals are housed through the entire year and every yard of the land tilled and made to produce crops which are mainly intended to be fed to cattle in the house. A modification of the soiling system is not an impossibility in parts of Ireland. Such a system, however, is successful only where quick growth and good seasons can be relied upon to enable the farmer to raise a greater variety of forage crops than our Irish climate will allow, and to secure if not two crops annually at least three in two years. Moreover, the soiling system is only applicable to a country where agriculture has attained to great perfection, and those who advocate it for Ireland must be prepared to believe in the possibility of rapidly elevating Irish farming from the present backward condition to a foremost place without its having to pass through any intermediate phases.

System Suited to Ireland.

The only improved system of agriculture which will suit the Ireland of to-day is that which harmonises with the cultivation of those crops to which her soil and climate are suited. In an average season Ireland can grow swedes, turnips, mangolds, cabbage, potatoes, oats, hay and grass to such perfection and of such feeding quality as are hardly equalled elsewhere. Her soil is also unsuited for the production of cattle, horses and sheep. Her pasture and climate develop the milking qualities of her cattle. Finally, she is close to an excellent market for horses, beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese, potatoes, eggs, and poultry.

To the production of these commodities she should, in the main, devote herself, adding fruit and vegetable growing in favoured situations. It is most desirable, therefore, for the success of the future of Irish farming that the occupiers of land, particularly the occupying owners, should turn their attention to developing to the full farming of this type. It is a system, however, which implies that each farmer, if he is to have any chance of succeeding, should have both an economic holding and the necessary capital to work it. It is, moreover, a system under which the owner of a two-horse farm, that is, one of fifty or sixty acres, can thrive best, provided he, his wife, and his family are prepared to apply themselves wholeheartedly to its cultivation and management.

Rotation Under this System.

Turning now to a more practical aspect of the question, we see that the first aim of the farmer must be the adoption and continuance of a proper rotation, of which roots are the keystone. In future articles in this *Journal* the methods of cultivating the chief crops will be discussed in turn. It must suffice here to describe the rotation advocated. This is no new thing; but simply that which has for long stood the test of our insular climate in the best-farmed districts. Briefly, it is the repetition every four years of the following series:—

- Roots (turnips, mangolds, swedes, potatoes);
- Oats or barley;
- Seeds (ryegrass and clover);
- Wheat or oats.

If this rotation be examined from the point of view of the distribution of labour over the year, of its capability of maintaining stock, both breeding and fattening, of its conservation of the fertility of the soil, of its effectiveness in reducing risks due to climate variations, of the prevention of disease in crops, of the destruction of insect pests, it will be found as perfect for Ireland, with one exception, as any other. Its one defect lies in the fact that it does not afford a sufficiency of pasture, and, accordingly, the rotation area should not embrace the entire holding.

In addition to the land under rotation crops, there should be a reserve of grazing and meadow. Let us assume a farm of forty-eight acres; this might be divided thus—twenty-four acres under rotation (six in each "break") and the other half devoted to hay or pasture in such proportions as are required. The rotation half would be made up of six acres of roots, six of oats or barley, six of seeds, six of wheat or oats; while the other half might be divided somewhat as follows:—twelve acres of medium grazing, six of very good grazing, and six of meadow for hay. Of course, no farm is capable of being divided with this diagrammatic regularity; nevertheless, some such division should be aimed at. If a break of the pasture be exceptionally good it should not be broken up; but if from diseased crop or sick land it becomes necessary, as it often is, to give any break of the rotation of the tillage half of the land a rest, an interchange may be made between it and an equivalent of the second-class grazing land. Thus, we may regard thirty-six—instead of twenty-four—acres of this farm as under rotation. Where the land is better suited to tillage than to grazing, one-fifth (instead of one-eighth, as in the above) may be devoted to the dominant crop—seeds. It might be that the farm contained no land suited to summer fattening. The spare grass should then be devoted to milch cows or sheep.

Duties Devolving on the Farmer.

Farming of this kind, however, cannot succeed unless the farmer has capital, unless he sets a high value on time, unless he himself and those of his

family who are not otherwise engaged devote their thoughts, energies, and time to the care of crops and stock. Each year should see some permanent improvement effected, be it fencing, draining, liming, or building. Finally, in Ireland with her fickle climate it is imperative that each operation should be done in its proper season. The farmer should aim at having his stubble ploughed before December, all his sea land ploughed before the end of January, his seeds sown in June, his meadows mown in July, his hay carted in August, his potatoes raised in September, his mangolds stored before the end of October, and his turnips and seedbeds before the end of November.

Every thoughtful Irishman, certainly every Irish farmer, must come to feel that, important and essential though they are, it is not new industries that are our primary need, but a regeneration of the old one, which in itself is capable of maintaining a greatly increased population.

Of Ireland's half-million farmers, how many are prepared to help themselves and their country by doing their share towards a revival of tillage?

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL
INSTRUCTION FOR IRELAND,
January, 1904.

Copies of this leaflet may be obtained free of charge, and post free, on application to the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, Upper Merrion-street, Dublin. Letters of application so addressed need not be stamped.

List of Manual Instruction Classes conducted in Congested Districts—continued.

Place.	Period during which Classes were held.	
	From.	To.
CO. DUBLIN.		
Arden,	15th November, 1903.	22nd February, 1904.
Blackthorn,	17th November, 1903.	18th December, 1903.
Carraig,	18th November, 1903.	19th January, 1904.
CO. KERRY.		
Arden,	25th April, 1904.	2nd June, 1904.
Blackthorn,	17th August, 1904.	25th September, 1904.
Do,	24th October, 1904.	14th November, 1904.
Carraig,	25th May, 1904.	25th July, 1904.
Do,	12th June, 1904.	25th July, 1904.
Do,	14th June, 1904.	27th July, 1904.
Do,	22nd August, 1904.	12th September, 1904.
Do,	23rd September, 1904.	1st November, 1904.
Do,	17th April, 1904.	22nd May, 1904.
Do,	19th September, 1904.	27th October, 1904.
Do,	19th June, 1904.	25th July, 1904.
Do,	20th October, 1903.	12th November, 1903.
Do,	12th June, 1904.	25th July, 1904.
CO. GALWAY.		
Do,	11th April, 1904.	20th May, 1904.
Do,	22nd December, 1903.	25th March, 1904.
Do,	2nd April, 1904.	21st May, 1904.
Do,	14th December, 1903.	24th February, 1904.
CO. MEATH.		
Do,	25th June, 1904.	2nd July, 1904.
Do,	25th September, 1904.	28th October, 1904.
Do,	24th October, 1904.	2nd November, 1904.
Do,	25th October, 1904.	27th November, 1904.
Do,	25th May, 1904.	2nd June, 1904.
Do,	25th June, 1904.	2nd August, 1904.
Do,	25th November, 1903.	22nd March, 1904.
Do,	24th February, 1904.	24th March, 1904.

D.—TECHNICAL CLASSES FOR GIRLS.

Subject to the conditions set forth below, capitulation grants at the rate of £3 per pupil for any number not exceeding ten, and at the rate of £2 per pupil for the remainder of the class, will be paid in respect of the attendance of girls at instruction in Lace-making, Crochet-making, Needlework, Spinning, Embroidery, Drawn Thread Work, Shirt Making, or such other industrial or domestic subject as may from time to time be approved by the Department, provided that the pupil has received not less than 240 hours' instruction.

In certain industrial subjects, such as Lace-making, a knowledge of Drawing is of great value to the worker. Where provision can be made for efficient instruction in Drawing, a further grant of 10s. per pupil will be paid in respect of those girls who have qualified for the grant referred to in the foregoing paragraph, and have received not less than forty hours' instruction in that subject. This special grant will, however, be claimable only when the time given to Drawing is in excess of the minimum time (240 hours) required by the foregoing paragraph.

Conditions.

1. The industry in which instruction is given shall be suited to the circumstances of the locality.
2. The grant shall not be paid in respect of any pupil for more than one school session, except in the case of Lace-making and Crochet-making.
3. The equipment and instruction must be satisfactory. (The Department's Inspectors will be specially directed to report how far the work is instruction, and how far the practice of an industry.)
4. The Sales and Wages Book and Attendance Registers must be satisfactorily kept.

6. The pupil, as part of the 240 hours of school work, shall receive at least forty hours' instruction in Domestic Economy subjects. (The forty hours' instruction may be given in twenty lessons of two hours each, and must include practice. At least thirty hours must be devoted to Cooking; ten hours may be given to Laundry Work. Not more than twenty hours' instruction in Cider and Laundry Work may be reckoned in the total of 240 hours.)

(Note.—In order to assist managers of classes working under this section of the Scheme, to satisfy the conditions in regard to instruction in Domestic Economy, the Committee may, if they think it desirable, send a County Inspector to give the required course of instruction. It must be understood that where the services of the Committee's Domestic Economy Inspectors are granted, the managers of the class are required to provide fire, light, and the necessary materials. The instruction given must be such as is applicable to the home life of those attending the course.)

7. Grants will not be payable under this section in respect of instruction in an industrial subject given by a teacher employed by the Committee.

8. No grant can be claimed in respect of any pupil who is not over fourteen years of age at the time of admission to instruction.

9. No grant can be claimed in respect of any pupil on the Roll of a National School or of an Industrial School under the Irish Industrial Schools Act.

10. Managers intending to claim grants under this section must forward Form B. 47 to the Office of the Committee on or before the 1st October, 1904.

11. Instruction must begin, under a recognised teacher, before the 1st December at the latest.

(Should the funds allocated for the purpose of this section of the scheme not enable the Committee to pay off all the claims in full, at the rates mentioned above, the amount available will be divided in proportion to the claims admitted.)

E.—RURAL ECONOMY.—SUGGESTED OUT-LINE SYLLABUS.

BOYS AND GIRLS.

Stage I.—(1). Simple observational exercises for every day, involving a daily record of natural phenomena, *etc.*, *etc.* :—

- (a.) Direction of wind.
- (b.) Temperature.
- (c.) Rainfall, clouds and other atmospheric phenomena.

(2). Also a monthly Nature Calendar, which should include a record of observations on

- (a.) The plants in flower.

(3). The appearance and habits of wild birds and other animals.

Each month will provide material for practical work and explanations of the purpose and uses of the observed facts. Thus in December collections of daisies, grasses, and leaves (made during the summer) may be arranged. Bulbs and Cereals should be examined and grown in water glasses and in soil.

(4). The effect of frost in the breaking up of soils and rocks should be observed and fully explained, and the part played by the soil in relation to the plant made clear.

(5). The structure of any small animal may be studied from a skeleton which may be found.

(6). In Spring the germination of seeds and the early stages of growth may be studied. A number of different seeds should be germinated on damp flannel and sawdust, and the structure of the seedling and the conditions necessary for germination studied. Unnecessary technical terms should be avoided.

Stage II.—(1). The work done in the preceding Appendix V stage should be continued and amplified.

The nature of soils should be further carefully studied and the manner in which the plants obtain nutriment from the soil. Practical exercises should be directed to demonstrating the existence in the soil of organic matter and of soluble and insoluble mineral substances.

(2). A plant should be burnt and the ash studied. The relation between this and the soluble minerals in the soil should be brought home. The effect of tillage on soils.

(3). The structure of seeds should be more fully studied; also the structure of flowers and fruits. All this work should be based upon the operations in the School Garden where the plants experimented upon should be reared by the pupils.

(4). Observations on the habits of birds and common animals.

Stage III.—(1). The work of the preceding stage should be further amplified. The growth of trees in relation to light and presence or absence of other trees. Note unequal branching and unequally developed wood around the pith.

(2). A study of insects in relation to plant life. Cross pollination and the action of bees.

(3). A careful study of the hen, beginning with the fertile egg and studying its life-history and habits.

FOR BOYS ONLY.

(4). Simple agricultural operations. A study of the effect of artificial manures in the School plot.

(5). A broad study of the structure and physiology of farm animals.

F.—MEMORANDUM ON RURAL INDUSTRIES and TRAINING FOR HOME LIFE, by GEORGE FLETCHER, Assistant Secretary in respect of Technical Instruction, Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.

PART I.

Introductory.

(1.) At the request of the Commission I have prepared, and now submit for their consideration, a brief Memorandum setting out the views of the Department in regard to rural industries, and the possible means of improving the condition of the people in the backward districts so far as these might properly be employed by the Technical Instruction Branch of the Department.

(2.) When before the Commission I expressed the view that there was a very real danger that Home Industries, as now practised, tended to unfit those engaged in them for the duties of home life. This question is considered later in connection with proposals for remedying the defect.

(3.) First, however, it would be well to endeavour to arrive at a clear idea of the industries which may properly be classed as home industries, and the functions of a department such as this in relation to them. The question may then be asked—how would the Department, if given the necessary authority and funds, propose to improve the condition of the people in the backward districts by (a) the encouragement of rural industries other than agriculture (the latter aspect of the question has been dealt with by my colleague, Professor Campbell), (b) the development of a system of technical education adapted to the needs of congested districts?

(4.) These two questions are closely related, but I shall endeavour as far as may be to deal with them separately. I take as admitted the pressing need for

rural industries auxiliary to agriculture, and the necessity for stating a definite policy for their encouragement. In arriving at a policy there is available for guidance the experience gained in the various schemes promoted by voluntary effort, by the Congested Districts Board, and by the Department.

Types of Rural Industry.

(5.) It appears to me to be of considerable importance to discriminate between the numerous forms of rural industry already carried on or capable of being introduced, with a view to judging of their economic aim and arriving at a decision as to the best methods of dealing with them.

(6.) A broad and useful distinction may be drawn between industries which seek to provide for the home itself what the home needs, and the expenses of the home rather than increasing its income; and those industries which aim chiefly at increasing the family income. The form of home industry which aims at providing in the home what the home needs has declined, and the women of the home no longer knit, spin, or weave for her family, and in many cases seldom sew. The remedy for this is to be found in properly directed educational effort.

(7.) Among those industries which aim at increasing the family earnings are lace and crochet-making, sprigging, embroidery, machine knitting, shirt-making, hand spinning, hand-loom weaving, etc. This latter group may again be divided into two categories, (a) those which depend for their existence upon artistic merit, and do not enter into competition with the

APPENDIX V.

machine-made product, such as lace, crochet, embroidery, etc., and (3) those which enter into competition with the products of power-driven factories, such as machine knitting, hand spinning, and hand-loom weaving.

Considerations respecting certain Classes of Home Industry.

(5.) Industries belonging to the first category, such as lace and crochet-making, springing, etc., have owing largely to the aid given by the Congested Districts Board and the Department, greatly increased in recent years, and, in a number of cases, considerable assistance has been afforded by this supplementary aid to the income of the family. Two important considerations respecting it must, however, be borne in mind. The first is that the maintenance of these industries entails an expenditure of public money large in proportion to the earnings. While such an expenditure is only to be expected in the first year or two of the establishment of such industries, it might fairly be expected to diminish with increasing proficiency and earning power on the part of the workers. There is, however, unfortunately an enormous wastage. It requires two years or more to make girls expert in such an industry as, say, crochet-making, during which time money has been expended upon their training, yet marriage or emigration is the majority of cases deprives the country of any industrial return on their training.

(2.) The second consideration is the danger that exclusive attention to such work on the part of girls who, in most cases, have only just finished, or have even not yet finished, their primary education, leads to a neglect of the ordinary duties of the home, the performance of which, though it does not directly increase the family income, makes for prosperity by diminishing unnecessary expenditure and raising the standard of home comfort. It would seem that an industrial class for girls, receiving aid from public funds, would form a welcome opportunity for securing training in household duties. As a matter of fact, however, the opportunity is not welcomed, and objections are raised against the introduction of instruction of this kind on the ground that it interferes with the earning power of the girls—in the case of lace-making, for instance, it has been stated that it "spoils the hands" of the workers. It is not surprising that, where the success of a class is measured by the amount of money earned, this attitude should exist. The danger here indicated is briefly noticed in the Report of the Royal Commission (1906), page 40, in a note dealing with the Report of the Sub-Commission of the Royal Commission on Technical Instruction. That Report states, "the true conception of Home Industries amongst an agricultural population—namely, that they should be the hand-maiden of agriculture and not its rival, a means of occupying agreeably and profitably in the home the time which cannot be given to the cultivation of the soil. And by profitable occupation is meant, not merely or simply the making of things which can be exchanged for money, but the making of things which would otherwise have to be bought with money, and which it is not only more profitable to buy with otherwise idle time, but which is the making of them confer upon the producer and his family circle a moral and intellectual profit not to be expressed in terms of cash, and not otherwise obtainable by them. It is well to emphasise this fact, and to point out that Home Industries indiscriminately pursued, like other good things, have their dangers. Experience has shown that many Home Industries . . . can lead themselves to two mischievous tendencies amongst others: (1) creating in the home, a way of engaging all the members of the family, to the very youngest, in a feverish struggle to increase the scanty earnings of the industry, to the neglect of sanitation, of the education of the children, and of the general comfort and happiness of the home; and (2) neglect of agriculture through the temptation to give more time to these industries than proper care of the farm justifies. The former tendency has shown itself a good deal in parts of Germany, the latter may be noted in parts of Switzerland."

10. Such a danger as I have referred to may be largely obviated by insisting that where money is given from public funds in aid of a home industry, it shall be a condition that domestic economy shall also be taught. This principle is adopted in the Department's scheme

for Technical Schools for Girls, and might, with advantage, be extended as facilities for providing instruction in domestic economy are extended. Stress is laid upon the distinction between industries of an artistic character and those which seek to compete with the factory-made product. In the case of the former, with the safeguard mentioned above, every effort should be made to conserve and develop the industries, while bearing in mind the fact that hope of permanence depends upon the artistic qualities of the products, and the individual character of the work, expert instruction of the highest character should, wherever possible, be given the workers in order to raise the character of the product. It is, however, important to bear in mind that this type of industry, producing, as it does, things which are not essential articles de luxe—a peculiarly subject to the caprices of fashion, and so it is desirable that the training of the workers should be of a nature to enable them to adapt their work to changes of fashion. But when all possible has been done for the encouragement of such industries, the fundamental needs of congested districts will not have been met. To meet these needs, more highly organised industries must be introduced, industries producing the necessities of life and yielding a higher wage with a shorter period of training than the industries just referred to.

Limitations of Home Industries which enter into Competition with Factory-made Products.

(11.) In the case of these industries belonging to the latter category (b) mentioned in paragraph (3) much experience has already been gained, and it is clear that their operations as at present organised are very circumscribed.

(12.) So long as an industry such as machine knitting and short-making seeks only to supply the local market it may continue to exist and afford a limited amount of employment to local workers. When, however, it is sought to extend the industry by appealing to a wider market, in order to make it self-supporting, grave difficulties are experienced. The products have now to reach a certain standard of quality and uniformity. They must be "marketed" in such a fashion as to compete with the products of highly organised factories and workshops; and the industry must be prepared to execute large orders rapidly and promptly. In order to satisfy these conditions, such equipment and labour-saving devices as are employed in factories must be obtained, and this in turn demands that while some of the work can be carried on at home, a large portion of it should be done under one roof where power may be employed and the advantages of organisation secured. The expenditure on plant, rent of buildings, and the wages of a manager, etc., now form "fixed charges" which demand a large and steady output in order to justify them, and we have arrived at something approaching the conditions of a factory.

(13.) But while one may point to large and successful factories even outside the large towns of Ireland, it is quite clear that large factories are, as a rule, entirely out of the question in rural districts. No objection, however, could be taken to employment in small factories if these could be successfully run. The question arises whether small factories, if established, have a reasonable chance of competing successfully with larger and more highly organised factories in England and elsewhere.

The Difficulties in the way of Small Factory Industries in Rural Districts.

(14.) The difficulties under which such undertakings labour are: (1) the want of trained hands; (2) the difficulties in the way of favourable purchase of the raw materials, and in the distribution of products; (3) high freight charges; and (4) cost of power. So far as the want of trained hands is concerned, the difficulty may be largely met by the training afforded under schemes of technical instruction, as is the case at present in a number of centres.

(15.) The difficulties in regard to purchase of raw materials and the distribution of products can again be considerably lessened by Governmental assistance to schemes of a co-operative nature, fulfilling much the same functions as the "Rohstoffgemeinschaften" of Austria-Hungary, which are aided by a branch of the Imperial Department of Industry.

(16.) The cost of power is not the predominant factor, and there are solid reasons for believing that the introduction of suction gas plant and a possibility of employing Irish fuel will further reduce this difficulty.

Advantages of Small Factory Industries in Rural Districts.

(17.) Against the difficulties I have mentioned must be placed certain marked advantages, principal among which may be mentioned the cheapness of labour and (in many places) the possibility of obtaining premises at small cost. On the whole, I see no reason why small factory industries producing woollen goods, hosiery, etc., should not succeed in a large number of rural centres in Ireland, especially if their establishment is aided in the manner suggested. A study of industries already established under similar conditions elsewhere amply justifies this view. I am convinced, moreover, that development of industries ancillary to the staple industry of agriculture are essential to the prosperity of such districts, and I can see no reason why such products as hosiery, woollens, and many others should be imported in view of the large available labour supply, especially female, in many of the districts in question.

Policy of the Department in regard to Rural Industries.

(18.) The assistance rendered by the Department to industries at present includes aid given to (a) agriculture and (b) industries other than agricultural. Professor Campbell has dealt with the subject of agriculture, and I shall confine my observations to the second group. Aid to them has taken the following forms:—

(1.) Affording *free expert advice* before the establishment of an industry and during its growth. This involves the employment of experts engaged in the industries in question.

(2.) The further training of masters and foremen. This is accomplished by

(a.) The courses of study at the Royal College of Science, the Metropolitan School of Art, and to these may be added the Technological Courses in such institutions as the Technical Schools in Belfast, Dublin, Cork, etc. These include organised courses in Engineering, Applied Chemistry, Weaving and Dyeing, Boot and Shoe Making, etc., Art Crafts such as Enamelling, Stained Glass Work, and Designing as applied to specific industries.

(b.) Scholarships of the value of £80 per annum to enable selected workers engaged in an industry to secure higher training in institutions providing special courses of an approved character with a view to training them for the management of industrial concerns.

(c.) It is proposed to start, as soon as possible, centre courses for masters and foremen extending over three months or more, affording maintenance scholarships. These correspond to the Meisterkurse of Germany and Austria.

(2.) The training of skilled workers.—This is accomplished in the following different ways:—Outside the work of Technical and Trade Preparatory Schools for boys, the Department give aid as follows:—

(a.) By paying the salaries of qualified teachers engaged in the industry. This aid is sometimes given through County Schemes of Technical Instruction, sometimes by means of direct grants.

(b.) By granting to the industry a number of scholarships. These involve a payment to an approved industrial venture of sums in aid of the technical training of workers. Examples are afforded by the Shrimack-making industry at Mill-loughaven, the Woollen industry of Kilkenny, and the Glove-making industry in Tipperary.

(c.) By the payment of three-fourths of the cost of maintaining apprenticeship classes in approved industries.

(d.) By the stipendium system in "Technical Classes for Girls," under which, in County Schemes of Technical Instruction, a sum of three pounds is paid under specified conditions as a constant of each of the first ten girls trained and two pounds on account of each additional worker.

(4.) Aid is further afforded by expert inspection of industries and through County Schemes by money grants and other assistance to Industrial Exhibitions.

APPENDIX V

(19.) The above are the methods now adopted by the Department. Want of funds prevents them meeting all the applications for aid, and the need for funds for the extension by them of such schemes in congested areas has already been mentioned in evidence by me.

(20.) It will be observed that the Department afford aid to private enterprise under these schemes, which are, in most cases, adequate to the end—that of stimulating and supplementing private enterprise. In backward rural districts, however, the Department recognise the necessity for stimulating private effort by exceptional means: indeed they freely adopted this course in non-congested areas during the period in which the county schemes were being inaugurated, by making direct grants for various industrial purposes where the circumstances had been fully explained into. They are fully convinced that such exceptional stimulus to private effort is called for in backward rural districts. Given the necessary funds, they would, as has been their practice in non-congested districts, be ready to administer direct aid to approved ventures, until the more systematic and generalised methods described in paragraph 18 have had time to take effect.

(21.) The Department would, moreover, propose to assist the organisation of small rural industries by facilitating the supply of raw material on favourable terms and the distribution of produce, as suggested in paragraph 15.

PART II.

Rural Education.

(22.) Although the question of the encouragement of industries dealt with in the first part of this memorandum may be regarded as one of greater urgency, it depends upon and is closely connected with the problem of adapting technical instruction to the wants of a rural population. Unless this is done it is doubtful whether the most generous efforts in the direction of the development of industry can ever be successful.

(23.) It may be said, as in the case of rural industries, that the proposals contained in this part of the memorandum are as suited to rural districts outside congested areas as to the congested areas. This is the case. The proposals are applicable in a general way to all rural districts. Backward and poor districts have, however, a prior claim to be dealt with, and would require special consideration in the establishment of rural industries. The same principles should apply inside and outside of congested areas, but the poverty of those areas demands preferential and generous treatment.

(24.) Concurrently with the extension of certain forms of technical training into congested districts, and the improvement of the conditions under which it is conferred, should proceed a reform for supplementing the instruction at present given in rural primary schools. The accomplishment of the first reform possible the second. The pressing need for this development will not be questioned. In the case of boys, it is essential that manual subjects should supplement the literary ones, and that the education should be frankly adapted to the everyday needs of those taught.

(25.) We should make our scheme of education for rural districts deliberately rural, one definitely designed to fit the scholar for life on the land. Such a scheme is not incompatible with the desire to give the fullest opportunities to the country boy of exceptional merit to secure the higher education he may be capable of securing. The fact remains that at present the education for a country boy is far too bookish, and too slightly related to the needs of his life after leaving school, that it is most calculated to attract him into the sphere of overcrowded and not too healthy occupations in the town than to cultivate a love for, and the ability worthily to follow, one of the group of occupations concerned with agriculture.

(26.) The defect to which I have referred is most conspicuous in the almost entire absence of two subjects which have for their object the training of the

year's powers of observation, reasoning, and attention, and for bringing him into close and healthy relation with rural surroundings. I refer to instruction in Rural Economy and Manual Training. In regard to both these subjects, the main difficulty consists in want of training in this subject on the part of the teachers. In the case of Manual Instruction this difficulty is further supplemented by the absence of accommodation and equipment.

(27.) The aim should be to introduce in the higher classes of schools for boys instruction in the principles and practice of woodwork, treated educationally. The object to be aimed at is not to make the boys carpenters, but to train them in habits of industry, careful workmanship, and accurate skill. Such habits must prove of great value to all boys, whatever may be their subsequent career in life.

(28.) A corresponding reform should be introduced into the upper standards of Girls' Schools, and would, doubtless, have been introduced before now had circumstances permitted it. The teaching of the various subjects connected with the management of a home should form part of the work of the upper standards of every girls' school. It will not be questioned that the need is great, and that every effort should be made to improve the standard of health and conduct in rural districts. Speaking generally, it seems clear that, hitherto, has declined, and that this is closely connected with the defects of our system of education. It is further recognised that health and physique are dependent upon suitable and properly prepared food.

(29.) There exists then a most pressing need for further instruction of a character designed to train girls for the duties of home life, and instruction in Cookery, Hygiene, and Domestic Economy should, as far as possible, be made compulsory on the elder girls at school. Strong efforts have already been made to extend the teaching of Domestic Economy for girls who have left the Primary School; and the Department have, through County and Urban Committees of Technical Instruction, established "Itinerant" Courses of Instruction over the country. But however much this system may be developed, it cannot wholly meet the difficulty. The instruction to be effective must be commenced in the Primary School. I have every reason to believe that the primary education authorities share this view, and that nothing but the difficulties in the way of extending this instruction prevents its being done. These difficulties can, I believe, be overcome by co-ordinated action between the Department and the Board of National Education.

(30.) I should like, however, to make it clear that, while in my opinion these educational developments are nothing short of essential to a healthy condition of rural life, I do not regard them as a panacea for the ills of congested districts, or as doing more than aiding a solution of the problems with which the Commission is confronted. I am quite satisfied from my own observation that in many instances a condition precedent to any permanent improvement is the removal of the people from their present cabins to healthier and cleaner homesteads. The benefits which might be expected from such migration, however, would only be transient unless accompanied by a sound and practical scheme of education.

(31.) In my evidence before the Commission I gave particulars of the work at present undertaken by the Department in congested areas. I pointed out that while such work was successful as far as it went, a due and reasonable development of it was rendered impossible owing to the absence of financial provision for the work, and that such work could only be developed at the expense of funds already allocated to non-congested districts, funds which were proving insufficient for their needs alone. The system of itinerant instruction in Domestic Economy, Manual Instruction, and Home Industries has succeeded, and a large and increasing number of courses in these subjects have been held since the Department were empowered to extend their work into congested areas. One of the greatest difficulties encountered, however, is, as I have said, the want, in rural districts, of suitable premises in which to hold these courses. It is not possible, with the present unsatisfactory accommodation, to inculcate these lessons either in regard to domestic teaching or manual instruction which it is one of the principal objects of such instruction to afford. It is, moreover, clearly desirable in a number of cases to organize courses of a more permanent character, and to allow teachers in both subjects to remain in a centre for a longer period than is at present possible. Another

grave difficulty is that young people of both sexes coming to receive instruction in these courses have received no preliminary teaching in the subjects taught.

(32.) The Primary Schools in these districts are, almost without exception, lacking in the accommodation necessary for teaching of this character, and the teachers are not at present qualified to undertake it. The Department, acting under the restriction in the definition of technical instruction contained in the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act (Ireland), 1899, admit to their classes only National scholars who are over fourteen years of age, or who are in the Sixth Class of a National School, and do not admit them in any case to attend such classes if these meet during Primary School hours. This restriction is necessary to safeguard the slender funds available for technical instruction under the Act for the definite purpose for which they were provided, but if funds are provided for the purpose in question, the Department have power to apply them under Section 2 (1) (c) of the Act.

A Proposal for remedying these Defects.

(33.) The definite proposal is this: To establish in suitable centres where itinerant courses have been successful or might be successful, a rural training centre for adult evening classes, consisting of a kitchen for the teaching of Domestic Economy, a room for the teaching of Manual Instruction, and in some cases an additional class-room to be available for (a) lectures and classes in agricultural or other technical subjects and (b) the teaching of Home Industries. The cost of building and equipping such a centre would be approximately £400 (varying with the locality and the plan). The establishment of such centres of technical instruction for those who have left the Primary School is justified by the experience gained in the Itinerant Schemes conducted by the Department, which, for their proper development, require the provision of these centres. The centres would be maintained by the County Technical Committees, whose funds would be increased so as to enable them to allocate to each a teacher of Domestic Economy for, say, six months in the year and a manual instructor for a similar period. The local administrative machinery for carrying out such a needed development is already in existence, and plenty of the right type of students are ready and anxious to learn. The value of the part such a centre would play in the life of a rural district cannot be over-estimated.

(34.) Not only would these rural economy centres serve to meet the pressing need of accommodation for evening classes for adult scholars, but they would also serve to provide a remedy for the defect in primary education in rural districts to which I have already referred—the lack of training in home duties for girls and of training in manual instruction for boys. Such instruction as is desirable in the lower standards (say up to Standard V.) should be given by the National teachers, and, where they are qualified, and accommodation exists, the instruction may be given in even the higher standards. But the accommodation scarcely exists, and almost insuperable difficulties appear in the way of providing it, except in the manner here proposed. The conditions which existed in Ireland have led to the establishment of a very large number of very small schools, having such small numbers in the upper classes that the provision in them of the necessary special accommodation for instruction in domestic economy or manual instruction cannot be justified.

(35.) The obvious way out of the difficulty is the adoption of the "Centre" system. The scholars from the upper standards of neighbouring National Schools would, where possible, attend the "rural training" centre for instruction by the special teachers in domestic economy (in the case of girls) and for manual instruction (in the case of boys) for, say, one school meeting in each week during the six months that the teacher is in the district.

(36.) In cases where accommodation already exists in the National School, and where the number of scholars in the higher standards warrants such a course, the special teacher might give the lesson in the National School.

(37.) The question of the distance from the schools to the rural training centre is important. An examination of the distribution and position of National Schools in congested areas, however, shows the possibility of establishing, in a large number of districts, centres which would serve four, five, or more National Schools within a radius of about two miles. It is

proposed to proceed tentatively, and in accordance with the ascertained needs of the districts, commencing with a few centres for adult evening classes, and making them available for the upper standards of National Schools where conditions are favourable. Naturally the first centres to be established would be where the local conditions were most favourable. It is considered desirable at the present time to estimate for thirty centres, although such a number would ultimately be found insufficient for the areas at present scheduled as congested.

No "Overlapping" involved.

(32.) This proposal involves no overlapping with the operations of the Board of National Education. On the other hand, it constitutes an effort towards co-ordinating the system of technical education with the work of the National Board. The principle was approved by the Consultative Committee of Education, consisting of representatives of the National Education Board, the Intermediate Education Board, and the Department, as far back as June 19th, 1905. The National Education Board also accepted the principle, and in the introduction to their Programme of Instruction, issued to come into operation on 1st April, 1904, is the statement:—"In the Fifth and higher standards, provision for instruction in Cookery, Laundry, Domestic Economy, and Manual Instruction in Wood and Metal has been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Instruction in these subjects will be provided for the higher standards of ordinary National Schools in day classes at Central Technical Schools, or in rural districts by means of itinerant instruction." The lack of funds alone prevents the Department taking in hand this work in the manner here described.

(33.) It is not necessary to burden this memorandum with details of programmes or syllabuses, but it may be important to lay down the principles that should characterize this extension of domestic economy teaching in rural districts. This is more particularly called for as some reform in the methods of teaching domestic economy, in the direction of adapting this teaching to the everyday needs of those taught, is no less important than the extension of the teaching. Effort has been wrought by a too sharp division of Household into the subjects of Cookery, Needlework, and Laundry Work. The teaching should include simple practical lessons in the cooking of cheap and wholesome foods such as are obtainable in the districts dealt with, and are within the means of the families of those taught. One great object is to develop the habit of thrift, and the cost of everything should always be set down and considered in relation to small incomes. The simple processes necessary in cottage households should be, moreover, repeated again and again in order to make them habitual. The equipment would be simple and similar to that available in the people's own homes. The instruction should also be directed to the cultivation of a sense of duty and responsibility in regard to the smallest tasks, and the formation of those habits of mind and body which characterize a good homemaker.

(42.) Instruction would be given in simple household operations, in home sewing, and in washing. Equally important would be the introduction of instruction in other matters which concern the health of the home. The necessity of ventilation, the effect of damp clothes, the need of pure water, the necessity for personal cleanliness, and for the removal of refuse; the washing, dressing, and feeding of young children, and the prevention, recognition, and treatment of their more common ailments. Plainly-worded instruction on simple treatment in cases of accident, and management in cases of sickness, will also form part of the course. The test of the efficiency of the teaching would be its applicability to the needs of the home.

(41.) As regards Manual Instruction, the work would include the use of all the more common tools, and the nature and use of the more common timbers. The use of these tools in woodworking would be dealt with by employing the more common joints in the construction of boxes, baskets, stools, gates, etc., and the whole associated with Applied Drawing. The value of such instruction is so universally recognized that it would be superfluous to dwell on the point. Its importance in cultivating useful habits and resourcefulness on the part of those who are about to leave, or who have left school, cannot be over-estimated.

(32.) A further proposal involves the introduction into National Schools of a form of instruction now rarely met with, but much to be desired—a form of instruction which is not the teaching of agriculture, but which would form an admirable preparation for the agricultural education of all those who are to live on the land. This knowledge of the common things of every-day rural life has been called "Nature Knowledge," but the term has also been applied to a type of instruction not contemplated here.

(33.) The course of instruction would aim at cultivating the scholars' interest and powers of observation in regard to the growth of plants from the seed, the nature of soils in relation to plant life, the purpose of agricultural operations—it would, in short, aim at giving simple but thorough scientific instruction by means of the common things of the country.

(44.) Properly taught, such a subject will be as truly educational as any in the curriculum. It is believed that it would be gladly welcomed by all responsible for primary education, and that the main difficulty in the way of its introduction is the want of training in this direction on the part of the teachers; for in order to be successful, the work would need to be done by the regular teachers of National Schools, and co-ordinated with the other subjects of the curriculum.

Suggestion for the Encouragement of the Teaching of Rural Economy.

(45.) The definite suggestion I would make is that the Department should, as part of their summer course for the further training of teachers, organise courses in Rural Economy on the lines laid down. The teachers thus trained would, in the various technical schools of the country, then develop the existing Science Courses for teachers of National Schools, modifying those courses for rural teachers in the direction indicated. Assistance, moreover, would be rendered by the Department's experts (as is now the case in some instances) in the establishment and maintenance of school gardens, which may be regarded as a necessary adjunct to such a programme of work.

Summary of Proposals.

(46.) The proposals made in the preceding paragraphs are summarised below:—

- (1.) Further aid to approved rural industries in congested districts in the manner described in paragraphs 18 to 21.
- (2.) A further extension into congested districts of the Department's schemes of technical instruction in non-agricultural subjects; and the establishment of permanent centres of instruction.
- (3.) Co-ordinated action with the Board of National Education with a view to supplementing Primary education in the upper standards of National Schools by affording facilities for instruction in Domestic Economy for girls, and Manual Instruction for boys.
- (4.) The provision of supplementary training for National Teachers in the subject of Rural Economy.

(47.) An estimate of the capital and annual expenditure necessary for carrying out these proposals is appended.

ESTIMATE.		£
(1.) Capital.		
(a) Erection of thirty Manual Training Centres at £300 each.		9,000
(b) Equipment for same at £100 each.		3,000
		12,000
(2.) Annual Expenditure.		
(a) Salaries of fifteen additional Manual Instructors, say.	1,950	
(b) Salaries of fifteen Domestic Economy Teachers, say.	1,350	
(c) Maintenance of Centres (cleaning, materials, etc.).		
Thirty centres, say £100 each.	3,000	
		4,350
(d) Summer Courses in Rural Economy for Teachers in Technical and National Schools.		250
(e) Additional aid to Rural (non-agricultural) Industries.		2,000
		88,550

APPENDIX VI.

APPENDIX VI.

DOCUMENTS put in by Mr. R. A. ANDERSON in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

MEMORANDUM A.—CO-OPERATIVE GRAZING.

The successful application of the co-operative principle to the acquisition and tenure of land is one of the most interesting features of agricultural organisation in Ireland. The small tenant-farmer and thrifty labourer everywhere throughout Ireland turns to the land as affording most profitable investment for his savings; and what no small holder can ever hope to accomplish individually he is enabled, by combination with his fellows, easily and conveniently to carry out. One small farmer or one labourer cannot become tenant of a grazing farm, but twenty or thirty such men, properly organised, can, without difficulty, do so and with much advantage to them all. In many cases persons with capital rent grazing lands for the purpose of re-letting them to their poorer neighbours at such figures as handsomely reward them for the service thus performed in standing between the head-labourer and poor agriculturists unable of themselves, acting single-handed, to do more than send a few head of cattle or sheep "to graze." Through co-operation land may be occupied by groups of persons who deal direct through their society with the landlord, entirely obviating the presence of the middleman, and who add to their incomes their respective shares of the profits previously pocketed by that wholly unnecessary agent.

There is hardly a locality in which a considerable sum in small savings is not being accumulated, and by a class whose desires and possibilities of investment are strictly limited. If once the opportunity of grazing accommodation at a reasonable rate were afforded much of this capital would be liberated and a large percentage of the population rendered more industrious and hopeful.

Wherever a co-operative society exists it should, whenever possible, add to its other functions the holding of land for the joint use of its members. But if such a co-operative society be not already organised a society can be easily established which could assume the management of grazing lands in the manner to be explained hereafter.

Three co-operative agricultural societies have already done good work in this direction. The Donaghpatrick Society (Co. Meath), has been steadily enlarging its farming operations during the past three years and at present holds seventy acres. The Killcrossan Society (Co. Galway), is the tenant of no fewer than three large farms at rents varying from £100 to £120, each of which are being grazed and meadowed by the members with substantial profits in each case. The Tinnah Society (Co. Roscommon) has succeeded in applying co-operation to two large farms which are jointly held by sixteen small farmers.

The practical results of these undertakings may be gathered from the returns furnished by the respective Committees of these Societies. In 1899 the Donaghpatrick farm returned to the grazing tenant a bonus of 15 per cent., or three shillings in the £ on all grazing rents paid. Thus a poor man who had three cattle at grass at 22 per head had the rent per head reduced to £1 14s. The grazing rents charged in this, as in all other cases, are those which are commonly paid in the district, but all money received over and above head rent and expenses is returned to the grazing members in proportion to amount paid by each.

Col. Edward, Chairman of the Society, says:—"So convinced are we of the great boon which such a co-operation offers to the small farmer and labourer that we have decided to largely increase our operations in this direction."

In the Killcrossan Society the lands were let at somewhat below the ordinary grazing rates current in the locality, but nevertheless after clearing all liabilities a dividend of 2s. 1½d. in the £ was available for members who took advantage of the farms in 1899.

At Tinnah the farms were let by the landlord for five years, and the reduction in rent accruing through co-operation is equal to about 3s. 6d. in the £. In all these instances the persons benefited would be without grazing accommodation altogether or would be obliged to pay for it at a much higher figure.

The advantages of the system may be summed up as follows:—

1. Where small farmers obtain grazing conveniently a much larger proportion of their home farms will be available for tillage and larger crops may be raised for the maintenance of their live stock.
2. The middleman's grazing profits are entirely obviated and are added to the income of the farmer.
3. Labourers are enabled to keep a milch cow, or invest their savings in young stock which, without increasing their labour, adds to their resources and encourages further thrift.
4. A healthy public spirit is created, and people are taught the advantage of mutual confidence and help in a manner which strikes deep into the hearts of Irishmen, namely, the possibility of increasing the prosperity of those who are obliged to make a livelihood out of the farm.

Where a society is already in existence any farm or farms available are taken over by its Committee and a Sub-Committee of Management, to be called "the Land Sub-Committee" is appointed. This Sub-Committee usually consists of five or seven persons, none of whom require grazing for their own cattle and are consequently in an independent position with regard to the disposal of the land.

A set of rules or bye-laws for the management of the farm, of which the following is a model, is then drawn up and published for the information of the members:—

1. The Land Committee of the _____ Co-operative Agricultural Society, Ltd., acting with the authority of the General Committee of Management, have decided that the _____ farm, now in the hands of the Society, may carry _____ cattle, or their equivalent in sheep, during the summer months from _____ to _____ and notice is hereby given that application for allotment of grazing will be considered on the _____ at _____, 1900.
2. Persons accepting grazing on this farm will be entirely responsible for any losses or accidents which may occur to their cattle while on said farm, except such as can be shown to have occurred through neglect of the herd or other servant of the Society.
3. The decision of the Sub-Committee with reference to any application shall be final.
4. The Sub-Committee may decide how many cattle or other animals shall be accepted from any applicant.
5. The rates per head for grazing will be those current in the district for the season 1900.
6. The herd will have full authority to detain animals until grazing rents are paid.

7. A receipt will be issued to each grazing tenant on discharge of his liability to the Society, such receipt to be signed by the Secretary.

8. Notice will be given of the name of the person authorised to receive grazing rents in conjunction with the Secretary, and tenants must pay their respective rents as they fall due to such person only, and on removal of their cattle present the Secretary's receipt as evidence to the herd that the rent has been paid.

9. The herd, in accordance with instructions from the Sub-Committee, will have the right to move the cattle over the farm in such way as may appear to him most judicious and economical.

10. The Sub-Committee reserve the right to enclose certain fields, to be specified hereafter, and before allotment of grazing, for mowder to help winterage if it should seem advisable to them to do so.

11. All cattle must be removed and all grazing rents paid on or before the 1st November, 1904.

12. The Sub-Committee will deal with applications for winterage in the same manner as with applications for summer grazing.

13. In applications for winterage as in applications for summer grazing the poorer tenants who are largest members of the Society will get preference.

14. The usual customs of the district with regard to the remuneration of herds will be observed.

15. Persons removing animals from the farm before the expiration of the grazing period shall, nevertheless, be held liable for the full grazing rent, but the Sub-Committee reserve the right to deal with exceptional cases.

16. The Sub-Committee shall deal with the distribution of hay for cattle on the farm for winterage, and the herd will receive such instructions as may be necessary.

17. All disputes must be referred to the Sub-Committee, whose decision shall be final.

18. Such surplus as remains on hand after paying rent and working expenses shall be divided among the grazing tenants in proportion to their respective grazing rents.

These rules may be modified in any way that may seem necessary, having regard to the peculiar requirements of any particular district. With careful management the summer grazing should clear the rent and expenses, leaving the winterage rent as clear profit. Much of the success of the scheme will depend on the character and intelligence of the herd. Wherever it may be necessary to organise an agricultural society to take over a grazing farm, the I.A.O.S. will be prepared to give every assistance, and will, after examination of all local conditions, make such suggestions as may be most easily workable.

Further information can be had on application to the Secretary, I.A.O.S., 22, Lincoln-place, Dublin.

B.—KILLERORAN CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

CO-OPERATIVE GRAZING SCHEME.

The Killeroran Society has, since 1889, been carrying on a scheme of co-operative grazing on behalf of its members with very considerable success. As will be seen from the appended figures, the Society now rents five farms, embracing a total acreage of 462 acres, 2 roods, and 16 perches (Irish measure), for which an annual rent of £584 is paid:—

Season.	A.	R.	P.	Rent Paid.
1890-1891	312	0	0	120
1900-1901	377	0	0	220
1901-1902	377	0	0	220
1902-1903	351	3	16	415
1903-1904	351	3	16	415
Apr. to Nov. 1904	391	3	16	275
" " " 1905	452	2	16	400
to 25th Oct., 1905	452	2	16	590

It was impossible to obtain the particulars of the grazing rents paid by the members of the society during these years, and I am therefore unable to show

the actual profit made on the transaction except for two seasons, viz.:—1900, 1901, when the members paid rents amounting to £262 15s. 16d., and earned a net profit on the renting of the land then held of £29 4s. 6d. The following season a net profit of £21 was earned. In most cases the rents paid for the farms by the Killeroran Society were competition rents. In no case did the Society pay less than the amount which had been hitherto paid by the individual graziers. In 1900, 149 cattle, four horses, and twenty sheep were grazed by the Society's members from April to November. From November till March following, they grazed fifty cattle and thirty sheep. The net profit earned on the transaction was repaid to members in the form of a bonus. The profit of £21 made the following season enabled the Society to return a bonus of £1. 6d. to its members.

The rents have always been punctually paid, and the only complaint made is that the Society is unable to secure as much land as its members require.

The agreement with the landlord is signed by the Committee of the Killeroran Society, which consists of ten members. The tenure is eleven months.

R. A. ANDERSON.

KILLERORAN CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, LTD.

Rules and Conditions of grazing.

- I. That all stock be carefully rented by the Committee and no figure be charged from what is agreed upon.
- II. That the Committee be in no way responsible for loss or accidents that may happen stock on either farms except what can be proved to be the neglect of the herds.
- III. That a correct list of the booked number of stock be given to the herds, and that they be held responsible for same.
- IV. That if any stock get sick on either farms, the herd of his farm is to notify the person to whom the said stock belongs, and he (the herd) be held as more responsible for said stock.
- V. Any person selling or removing stock cannot replace same by any additional number.
- VI. That all stock be removed and rent paid up on November 10th, 1901.
- VII. That sheep on Carton be charged 2s. for summer months and 1s. for winter months, ewes with lambs at foot, 15s. 6d.
- Yearling calves on Carton, 2s. for summer months; cattle rented according to appearance on both farms.
- Sheep on Hermitage, 2s. for summer months; for winter months, 1s.; ewes and lambs 11s. 6d. for summer months.
- Yearling horses, 2s. 15s. for summer months, older horses, 2s. 1s., ditto Carton, 2s. 10s.

JOHN KELLY.

C.—Report on Co-operative grazing scheme on Mr. Perry Magan's estate in Co. Roscommon in connection with the Tisara Co-operative Agricultural Society.

The scheme is worked in conjunction with the Tisara Co-operative Agricultural Society, and all the participants were members of the Tisara Agricultural Society. The scheme embraces seventeen members, who jointly hold 132 Irish acres of land for the term of five years, from the 1st of April 1900; these seventeen persons are jointly and severally liable for the rent. Up to the present the rent has been lodged with the agents every quarter before it was due. There has been a good profit made during the two years of working. The experiment has been exceedingly popular and has worked to the entire satisfaction of both landlord and tenants.

APPENDIX VI. There is ample room for extending the scheme to other districts, but if it is to be worked with success, the number of participants would require to be small—twenty men would be the most that it would be safe to join together to grow any one farm of ordinary size in co-partnership, as if the number is larger there will be great danger of the members quarrelling among themselves. This is the greatest difficulty which has to be contended with in co-operative farming.

The greatest number of the agricultural societies would be only too ready to purchase lands to be grazed in common if sufficient land could be obtained to meet their requirements, but, if they were to enter into the project at all, they would require to take enough land to supply each one of their members with, say, four Irish acres (the place of two "sims"). Take the average membership of the agricultural societies at 120, it would mean that, say, 320 Irish acres would be required; if a less amount were taken than would supply the entire members of the society it would create very bad feeling among those who were left out.

This scheme came into practical effect on 31st March, 1900, and is made up of twenty-two tenant farmers, holding 160 acres of land. The necessary qualification for membership being, firstly, that all persons applying must be members of the *Ulster C. A. S.*, and, secondly, must be tenants on Mr. Percy Magan's estate, to whom the farms belong.

Nothing can equal the success which the scheme has attained; the rents have been paid punctually to the day, and the utmost harmony has existed among the members. The results which have been achieved are most striking, the most noticeable being that the tillage on the home holdings of the members has been largely increased, with the result that the stock have far more hand-feeding in the winter, and this, in conjunction with the large free run, enables the members to turn out their stock earlier and in better condition than their neighbours. The whole scheme is eminently satisfactory.

D.—Case on behalf of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Limited, for Counsel to advise re Acquisition of grazing farms, and his opinion thereon.

Through the instrumentality of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Ltd., there have been established in great numbers throughout the country local co-operative societies, formed under the provisions of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, or as agricultural banks on the Raiffeisen principle under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896. These societies comprise many prominent local gentlemen interested in agriculture, together with the tenant farmers of the district, with the object of improving the condition of agriculture in each particular district, obtaining outlets for produce, or procuring for their members seeds, agricultural implements, manure, etc., of the best quality, and at greatly reduced prices.

These local societies are affiliated to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Limited, and seek aid and direction from the parent society from time to time.

The societies situated in congested districts affiliated with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Limited, have, for some time past, had under consideration the idea of acquiring lands, with the view of sub-dividing these lands amongst their members, so as to enlarge the holdings of these members, placing them in a more independent position.

The matter has now come to a practical point, as the Committee of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Limited, have been approached by the owners of a large grazing farm in the County Galway, and a co-operative society adjacent to the farm, the owner of the farm being desirous of selling, and the society being desirous of acquiring it, for the benefit of its members.

These gentlemen who form the Committee of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society having carefully considered the matter and the peculiar social and economic conditions under which the people in the congested districts live, are satisfied that the scheme can be successfully carried out.

It is proposed that this scheme should be carried out, either by the aid of advances to be made by the Land Commission, or by the Congested Districts Board.

It is suggested that one of the chief difficulties which will arise in dealing with the Land Commission will be as to the division of the land. If the land is purchased by the Society and the moneys are advanced to the Society by the Land Commission for this purpose, the Society cannot, without consent, sub-divide, and as it will be an essential of this scheme, if it is to be carried out, that the persons whose holdings are to be enlarged, and on whose behalf land is acquired for this purpose, shall be bound for themselves and the persons deriving under them, for the due payment of such annual instalments as may be payable to the Land Commission or Congested Districts Board on account of the purchase money, a similar obligation should, of course, be entered into by these persons for whom the land was acquired, as to payment of advances to be made by the Board of Works under the 31st Section of the Land Act of 1881 for the improvement of the enlarged holdings.

The chief question for consideration is as to the means by which the matter can be arranged so as to acquire the lands, either through the Land Commission or the Congested Districts Board, and in forming his opinion Counsel will consider whether such a scheme could be framed as would allow local societies to acquire land, with the view of sub-dividing it, the individuals receiving each portion so divided becoming liable to the society for the annual instalments to be paid the Land Commission as well as the society, the individuals as between themselves, of course, having a right over, against the owners of the other plots for contribution, and the society having power to sue members in default or otherwise compel them to fulfil their obligations. The adoption of this principle will give much greater security for the individual repayment of the instalments of the purchase money than if the tenants were treated with individually as a social pressure will be brought to bear upon the individual who is inclined to make default by the society as a body making themselves responsible for the instalments.

The provision which would prevent individuals receiving portion of the land from sub-dividing this holding will obtain favour amongst the community at large, as there will naturally be a local sentiment against subdivision as having a tendency to weaken the solvency of the tenants, and consequently create a greater risk to the other members who would be liable for the instalments to the Commission or the Congested Districts Board. By the arrangement suggested the lenders will have the collective obligation of the members of the society for the instalments, and, in this way, and as a protection to themselves, the members will army pressure to bear on any individual tenant who is in any way inclined to make default, or do anything which would weaken his responsibility to make good his share of the liability incurred.

As a further effort to alleviate the condition of these local farmers, the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society have, in some districts, established what are described as "agricultural banks," money being raised on the Raiffeisen principle of the unlimited liability of members. Agents are informed that this has been carried out with very great success in the congested districts, the local societies having been largely assisted by loans from the Congested Districts Board. The Irish Agricultural Organisation Society have already organised some seventy agricultural societies in congested districts.

It is therefore proposed, in furtherance of the scheme set out above, to assist persons who are to have allotments of land made to them and who have no capital to stock it, by placing them in funds for the purpose of stocking the lands, the loans being raised on this Raiffeisen principle and the working and organisation of this matter to be carried out by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Limited.

It is also proposed to establish a system of co-operation suitable to each district, whereby the means of improving the breeds of stock and certain facilities for the purchase of agricultural requirements and the disposal of produce will be provided, and improved methods of agriculture will be introduced on the enlarged holdings.

The above shortly sets out the important and far-reaching schemes for the benefit of those tenant farmers, which the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society have in view and the matter is now brought before Council so that he may advise as to the purchase of the lands for this purpose.

Copies of the following Statutes are sent herewith:—

Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, and Friendly Societies Act, 1896.

Copies of the rules of the Killarney Co-operative Agricultural and Dairy Society Limited, and copy of the rules of the Clonsilla Agricultural Bank as showing how these societies and banks are worked are also sent herewith.

COUNCIL QUERIES AND OPINION.

Council will please meet the Secretary, Mr. Anderson, and some of the other members of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in consultation and advice:—

(1.) How best the matter can be carried out. Whether the Land Commission could make advances to the local societies for the purchase of the land, with the view to its sub-division as before mentioned, and how far this could be done by a sale to the Society without bringing in the actual tenants or persons to whom the lands are to be allotted on sub-division, or whether it would be essential that these tenants should be so brought in, and that the Society should be as in the nature of a guarantor, each individual tenant being, as it were, a principal debtor?

1. In my opinion the Land Commission cannot make advances to the local societies for the purpose of purchasing the lands in question and afterwards sub-dividing the same among different tenants. The Land Purchase Act only permits the Land Commission to make advances for the purchase of holdings in the occupation of tenants, and of course the object of the suggested purchase in these cases by the societies would have to be fully brought before the Land Commission, and I am clearly of opinion that the Land Commission would hold that they could not advance money to a person or society to purchase lands, with the object of immediately afterwards sub-dividing such holdings, and which sub-division could not, of course, take place without the consent of the Land Commission (see s. 36 (1) (a) Land Act, 1891).

In my opinion the only way to get the Land Commission to directly advance the money would be to first make the sub-division and lettings to the proposed tenants and which would have to be permanent lettings and not lettings to determine if the Land Commission should refuse to sanction the advance, and then if the repayment of the advances to the Land Commission were guaranteed by these societies over and above of course the usual liability of each tenant and holding, the Land Commission would probably be more likely to sanction the advance.

(2.) The same query will apply as to the powers of the Congested Districts Board to make advances on the terms stated above, and Council will please advise accordingly?

APPENDIX VI.

2. The same reasoning would apply to the Congested Districts Board, namely, that under the powers which they possess under the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1891, ss. 34 to 41, and the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, ss. 43 to 45 they apparently can only deal with the tenants of holdings directly, that could not deal with a society that would afterwards deal with sub-divisions to tenants. The powers of the Congested Districts Board appear to be to buy estates for which now, under s. 43 (1) of the Act of 1896, they can get the purchase money advanced by the Land Commission provided the limit for the particular county (for the benefit of which the land is purchased) mentioned in sub-sec. 2 of s. 43 of the Act of 1896 has not been exceeded. Then, apparently, the same Board can amalgamate holdings so that they do not exceed £20 annual rateable value, a 37 (2), Act of 1891. Then, except where the holding is a small holding, i.e. a holding of less than £10 annual rateable value, or such higher sum as the Congested Districts Board fix, the Congested Districts Board can sell to the tenants, the tenants, getting advances from the Land Commission for the purchase. But where the holdings are small holdings, as above defined, the Congested Districts Board can only sell to the tenants without any advance from the Land Commission. It would appear, therefore, that if the Congested Districts Board will do it, they could buy estates such as these, i.e. the parts in the hands of the tenants and the parts in the hands of the landlord, get the purchase money advanced by the Land Commission if the county limit has not been exceeded amalgamate the holdings so that each will exceed £20 annual rateable value but not exceed £20 annual rateable value and then sell to each tenant in which case the Land Commission could advance the purchase money to each tenant.

(3.) Council will also favour Queries with the benefit of such general advice for their guidance in the matter, as he may consider necessary:—

3. It appears to me that if the Land Commission take the guarantee of these societies, as I suggest in No. 1 answer, it would give all the tenant purchasers the interest in the payment of the purchase annuities, and in the prosperity of the holdings, and the purchasers would that is desired, and the real risk is the having first to make permanent tenancies by amalgamation of lands in lands with lands in tenancies.

JAMES WAKELIN, 43, LOWER LOMBARD-STREET.

December 12th, 1893.

R.—DRAFT OF BILL promoted by the IRISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY and submitted to the Right Hon. GEORGE BAILEY, their Chief Secretary, by a Deputation from the Society on 29th January, 1894.

THE PURCHASE OF LAND (IRELAND) BILL, 1894.

A BILL to further amend the Land Purchase (Ireland) Acts and for other purposes relating thereto:—

WHEREAS there are in Ireland a large number of tenants occupying holdings upon which, owing to their manifold size, they are unable to maintain themselves and their families. And Whereas it is desirable that such tenants should have their holdings enlarged by the addition of newly-acquired land or should, where no such land can be acquired, be enabled to migrate to other land elsewhere. And Whereas, from lack of capital and owing to the depressed economic and social conditions affecting such tenants, they are not generally in a position to successfully cultivate larger holdings than those which they now occupy. And Whereas there have been and are being and are proposed to be constituted under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, and the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, as amended by the Societies' Borrowing Powers Act,

1896, Societies which have for their objects, among other purposes, the provision for their members of working capital, the acquisition for them of the requirements of the farming industry of the best quality and upon the most advantageous terms, in order to increase the volume and lower the cost of agricultural production so as to enable them to compete with the farmers of other countries, the disposal of live stock and farm produce in the best and most economical way, and the general improvement of the methods and habits of the farming community in the several districts in which the said Societies are or may be situated. And Whereas such of the said Societies as have been constituted find that by reason of the inadequate size of the holdings of many of their members as aforesaid, the said members cannot avail themselves of the advantages which the said Societies offer and are unable to take their part in extending the utility of such Societies. And Whereas neither the Irish Land Commission nor the Congested Districts Board for Ireland have sufficient

ARTICLE VI. powers under the Land Purchase Acts or otherwise to advance monies for the enlargement of such holdings as aforesaid, nor have the said Commission nor the said Board facilities or powers sufficient or available for promoting the prosperity of such tenants after enlargements of their holdings. And Whereas it is desirable that such Societies should be enabled to facilitate the acquisition of land by their said members.

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. For the purpose of enlarging or of amalgamating or of improving holdings and of enabling the tenants of holdings to acquire the same, together with the additional land that may be necessary for such enlargement, amalgamation or improvement, or to acquire other land to work with their holdings, or on negotiating from their holdings it shall be lawful for any Society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1853, or under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, as amended by the Societies' Borrowing Powers Act, 1896, and whose members consist of tenants or tenants and other persons to agree with any landlord or landlords or owner or owners of land for the sale to any of such tenants either of their respective holdings and of other lands or of such holdings or of other lands or of other holdings and as to any such lands or holdings in such divisions for each of such tenants as such Society shall determine, and to agree with any landlord for the migration of tenants from or to holdings.

2. Upon the making of such agreement any such Society may divide such holdings as may have been agreed to be purchased and such other lands among any such tenants and may amalgamate such holdings as may have been agreed to be purchased with such other lands or the divided parts thereof or may divide such lands among tenants of holdings, and may decide upon and declare the proportions of the purchase money to be payable by each of the tenants, and may cause surveys and maps to be made of such holdings and other lands, so as to show each of such holdings as enlarged, amalgamated, divided or improved, and the Congested Districts Board for Ireland may, out of moneys at the disposal of the Board, pay to any such Society the expenses such divisions, amalgamations, allocations of proportions of the purchase money and of such surveys and maps and any other expenses properly and necessarily incurred under this Act.

3. Any such Society may lodge any such agreement and surveys and maps, and a schedule giving all necessary particulars, with the Land Commission, and thereupon the Land Commission may agree to advance, and after the making and lodging of agreements signed by any such tenants and such landlord or landlords or owner or owners of land respectively for the sale and purchase of such holdings as so enlarged or amalgamated or improved, or of such other lands as so divided, may advance to any such tenants the purchase monies of such holdings or of such other lands under the Land Purchase Acts, and the Land Commission shall have power where such holdings or other lands are purchased from more than one landlord or owner of land to allocate the purchase moneys among the several landlords or owners of land.

4. If the Land Commission agree to advance a lesser sum, or lesser sums, than originally agreed on, any such Society may, with the consent of the landlords or owners of land, alter and modify the agreements with the landlords or owners of land, and may alter and modify the proportions of the purchase monies to be payable by each tenant, and thereupon this Act shall apply to such altered agreements.

5. When the Land Commission agree to advance the purchase monies, or any of the purchase monies, of such holdings or lands, any such Society may procure agreements for the sale of such holdings and other lands, or of such enlarged, amalgamated or improved holdings, or of such divided lands, to be made and signed by the landlord or landlords or owner or owners of land and the tenants respectively, and lodge the same with the Land Commission.

6. No holding shall be enlarged, amalgamated or improved under this Act so that the annual Poor

Law Valuation thereof, or of a holding with additional land, shall exceed the sum of £30, or such larger sum as the Congested Districts Board for Ireland may for special reasons sanction, and after the making of the agreements and of the enlargements or amalgamations or divisions mentioned in Section 1, sub-sections (1) and (3) of this Act the Commissioners of Valuation shall, at the request of any such Society, cause separate valuations to be made of such holdings, so to be and as if such holdings were enlarged, amalgamated or improved or added to.

7. The provisions of the Land Purchase Acts, as amended and extended by this Act, shall apply to advances and the making of advances under this Act, and advances under this Act shall be deemed to be advances under the Land Purchase Acts, and the Rules and Forms in force under the Land Purchase Acts shall, so far as applicable, apply to proceedings under this Act, and, if necessary, Rules and Forms for carrying this Act into effect shall be made by the Land Commission.

8. In addition to the other securities for the repayment of advances under the Land Purchase Acts, and for the performance of conditions affecting holdings purchased under the said Acts, the Land Commission shall, when making advances under this Act, have power to require all the members of any such Society whose holdings have been or shall be enlarged, amalgamated, improved or added to under this Act, to enter into such joint and several securities with the Land Commission on behalf of such members, their heirs, executors and administrators for securing to the Irish Land Commission the repayment of all the advances made to tenants who are members of such Society under this Act, and for securing and providing that any such tenants shall observe and perform all conditions relating to or affecting a holding or land purchased under this Act, as the Land Commission shall prescribe, and in fixing the amount of an advance the Land Commission shall take this additional security into consideration.

9. In addition to the conditions affecting a holding under the Land Purchase Acts after the Land Commission have sanctioned an advance therefor, the following conditions shall be imposed upon any holding or land purchased under this Act after the same shall have become vested in the proprietor thereof under this Act and the Land Purchase Acts; that is to say,

- (a) Such holding or land shall not be assigned, subdivided, or let by the proprietor thereof without the consent of the Land Commission.
- (b) There shall not be or be built on any such holding or land more than one dwelling-house, and one house only shall be used as a dwelling-house on such holding or land and where land is added to a holding under this Act on which there is a dwelling-house, no dwelling-house shall be or be built thereon, and no house shall be used as a dwelling-house thereon.

If there shall be a breach of any of the conditions of this section, the Land Commission shall cause the holding or land or to which such breach has occurred to be sold or shall order the same to be forfeited to any such Society, and after such order, such holding or land shall vest in such Society subject to the security then due to the Land Commission, and to be disposed of by such Society for the purposes of this Act, and in such manner as the Land Commission shall prescribe, and the provisions of Section 30 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, shall apply to a sale and the proceeds of a sale by the Land Commission under this section.

10. A Society taking any proceedings under this Act shall be a Society approved of by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland for the time being, and shall provide by its Rules that the Society does not and shall not make a profit by the acquisition of land.

11. In this Act the expression "the Land Purchase Acts" has the same meaning as in the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, and includes Parts III. and VI. of that Act, and "land" includes turf bogs and turbarry and rights of turbarry.

12. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1899.

APPENDIX VII.

APPENDIX VII.

DOCUMENTS put in by Mr. R. R. MACGREGOR, in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

A.—STATEMENT OF THE SALARIES OF THE STAFF OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD FOR SCOTLAND FOR 1905-6.

Headquarters Staff—Charged to Sub-head A. "Salaries."		Charged to Sub-head G. "Land and Migration."	
	£		£
(a.) Secretary £250; 4 Clerks (rising from £60 to £300), 1 at £134; 1 at £119; 1 at £70; 1 at £61, ...	634	Land Manager, ...	360
Messenger allowance, ...	35	2 Clerks, ...	110
			2470
(b.) Engineer (£230 to £400), ...	303		
Surveyor, ...	173		
Clerical allowance, ...	50		
			81,461
	£288 of which	In addition to these general administrative expenses there are the following:—	
	C.D.B. pay	1. During the construction of each pier, road, or other work aided by the Board, a Superintendent guards the public interests. These men are paid 38s. a week while the job lasts. At present there are eight, engaged on works in Lewis, Harris, South Uist, Barra, North of Skye, South of Skye, Caithness, and Zetland.	
	122	2. Farm servants, shepherds, grooms, etc., are employed on the farms in the hands of the Board; also gamekeepers, while there are a Master and Cook in the Home at Aberdeen.	
	£791		

NOTE.—This is a Statement of the Staff as authorised by the Treasury in 1906. The figures show a saving on those of 1905-6 (£1,093 for salaries) owing to the re-organisation of the Engineering Department on the retirement of Colonel Gore-Booth, R.E.

Agricultural Inspectors—Charged to Sub-head E. "Agriculture."

2 at £150 each, ... £300

R. R. MACGREGOR,

Secretary.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD,

EDINBURGH, 28A March, 1907.

B.—STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS OF SMALL HOLDINGS FOR SALE IN STRATHNAVER.

The Congested Districts Board have the option of purchasing at Whit Sunday, 1901, for the sum of £18,545 10s., the northern portion of Rye Farm (including the fishing on the river Naver and its tributaries), for the purpose of offering it for resale in small holdings. The said portion extends to 12,116 acres or thereby, and includes a considerable area formerly arable.

Of the better lands lying near the road that passes through this part of Strathnaver the Board propose to constitute twenty-nine holdings (of which five are larger in size and value than the remaining twenty-four), and to separate them by a fence from the remainder of the 12,116 acres or thereby which will be comprised as a common hill grazing. The said common grazing is estimated to carry 1,200 ewes in winter, and in addition to these to summer 400 young sheep. It will be pastured by a Club stock, and to each holding there will be attached such share in the said common grazing as is set forth in the Schedule annexed hereto.

The revenue from the shootings over the said lands will be proportionately divisible among the purchasers of the twenty-nine holdings, according as the same are larger or smaller holdings. A gross rent of £250 has been secured for the shootings during the next five years. After providing for the owners' public burdens the purchaser of each larger holding may therefore expect to receive £12 2s. 6d., and the purchaser of each smaller holding £5 1s. 10½d., yearly, as his share of the shooting rent, and if proper care is taken of the shooting the tenants may come to derive a still greater return from it.

The Board will only purchase the lands in question if they find there is a sufficient demand for these holdings from applicants of a suitable class. To ascertain as to this matter the Board have meantime had the proposed holdings laid off and their boundaries marked on a plan, and they now offer them for sale provisionally, along with the rights of common pasture thereto attached, with entry at Martinstown, 1901.

rights, these shall be referred to the Congested Districts Board or their successors in office, or to an arbitrator appointed by them, and the decision so arrived at shall be final and binding, and not subject to review.

VII. The Congested Districts Board will accept repayment at any time of the balance of an advance made by them, but, until the advances to the purchaser of any holding shall have been fully repaid, with the interest accrued thereon, the holding shall be possessed subject to the following conditions:—

- (a) Every sum due to the Board in respect of an advance shall be punctually paid.
- (b) Each purchaser or his successor shall reside on his holding, and cultivate the same by himself or his family and servants in proper rotation, and according to the rules of good husbandry. No purchaser shall sublet his holding in whole or in part.
- (c) Each purchaser or his successor shall keep the dwelling-house and other buildings on his holding insured against fire, with an office to be approved by the Board, in a sum that will suffice to reimburse them in the event of a total loss.
- (d) Each purchaser or his successor shall maintain in good tenable condition the whole buildings, fences, roads, and drains on his holding (including the extent of ring fence adjacent to his own holding), whether constructed by means of advances from the Board, or otherwise, and shall refrain from carrying on any operations destructive to the productivity and value of the holding.
- (e) If the purchaser shall die during the currency of the period over which his loan extends, the Board shall be entitled to determine the heir who is to succeed him in the holding, giving a preference, if practicable (as to which the Board shall be the sole judge), to the heir indicated by the deceased occupant in any valid testamentary or other writing left by him; and such heir, on being recognised as occupant by the Board, shall take upon himself the whole obligations of his predecessor, including liability for any arrear of the payments due under his agreement; and a similar power of determining the heir who is to succeed to the holding shall be vested in the Board in all subsequent cases of the death of the occupant during the currency of the said period.
- (f) If, on the death of the purchaser or any subsequent occupant, none of his relatives or heirs desire to take up the succession, the Board shall be entitled to sell the holding under the same conditions as are provided in Article VIII. hereof for the case of sale on default.
- (g) Any question between the Board and the several purchasers as to the meaning of the conditions inserted in their respective conveyances shall be determined by two arbitrators mutually chosen, or by an arbitrator whom they may appoint, and the decision of such arbitrator or arbitrators shall be final and conclusive.

VIII. Where default is made in complying with any one or more of the foregoing conditions, the Congested Districts Board shall be entitled to give the purchaser warning, by a letter delivered at his dwelling-house on the holding, that continued non-fulfilment of such conditions will incur forfeiture of the holding; and if, after three months from the date of such warning, the default shall not have been remedied, the Board may declare the purchaser's whole rights in and to the said holding forfeited, and may

sell the holding to the highest bidder who is not already the occupant of another holding, and who offers for the subjects exposed, with a view to personal occupation and possession, with entry to the new purchaser at the next term of Whitsunday, repaying out of the sale price any sums due to the Board or expended by them in making good the default of the dispossessed occupant or his predecessor, and handing over to him or his heir any balance of the selling price that may remain.

Bankruptcy or the granting of a Trust Deed for behoof of creditors shall also be held as increasing forfeiture of the holding, and entitling the Board to sell and convey the holding to another purchaser.

IX. Purchasers shall not be entitled to assign their holdings, except with the consent, in writing, of the Congested Districts Board, until their indebtedness to the Board has been discharged and the Board shall be entitled to withhold their consent on the ground, among others, that the proposed assignee is not of the class for whom the holding was designed.

X. No purchaser, nor the successor in title of any purchaser, shall sub-divide his holding under any pretext whatever.

XI. The Board reserves power, in negotiating the terms of their conveyances with the several purchasers, to make such alterations in the foregoing conditions as may in the circumstances seem to them expedient.

A plan of the northern section of Syre, showing the extent of each of the proposed holdings and of the common pasture, may be seen with Mr. Chisholm, Farm Manager, Syre, who will be prepared, on receiving previous notice, to point out on the ground the boundaries of the several holdings.

Applications are only invited from Sutherland men, and a preference will be given to crofters from congested districts, by whose removal some of the pressure of population may be relieved.

When there are more applicants than one for a holding, and there is no reason for giving either of them a preference, the selection will be made by ballot. Applicants for any particular holding should state which, if any, of the other holdings they would be prepared to take, in the event of the one applied for not being obtainable. Their applications, with references, should be lodged with the Secretary of the Congested Districts Board, 6 Parliament Square, Edinburgh, on or before 1st February, 1902.

R. R. MACGREGOR,

Secretary.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD,
EDINBURGH, 26th December, 1900.

SOUTMING.

Single Holding.—1 horse; 4 cows; 20 sheep.

Double Holding.—2 horses; 8 cows; 40 sheep.

Any cattle beast under age of one year shall not count.

Sheep taken over from Duke of Sutherland.

	Reid.	To be paid for by Sutherl.	Total.
BAMS, ...	87	14	101
SWR HOGGS, ...	308	100	408
SWR—ALL AGES, ..	1,486	358	1,844
SWR LAMBS, ...	1,176	150	1,326
	2,557	622	3,179

C.—STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS OF SMALL HOLDINGS FOR SALE IN BARRA

The Congested Districts Board have purchased the farms of North Bay and part of the farm of Ballygarry for the purpose of offering these lands for resale in small holdings. The area acquired extends to 2,902 acres or thereby, including 270 acres computed for the islands of Fuisy, Luiginnach, and some other small islets lying between North Bay and the Strand of Hallybeg.

A plan has been prepared showing the intended holdings and their boundaries duly laid off and coloured, and to this plan reference is made.

The Board now offer the said holdings for sale, along with the rights of common pasture thereto respectively attached, with entry at Whit Sunday, 1932.

Access to the ground, however, for tillage and otherwise will be given as soon as the Board can complete the necessary arrangements.

The holdings laid off are 63 in number. Of these 33 are in the neighbourhood of North Bay, and are intended as fishermen's holdings. There are 25 holdings on Cleat and Green of a larger class.

The townships formed are named Cleat, Green, Ardveanish, North Bay, Bayherivagh, and Bogach; and the land has been divided as follows, viz.:

1st. Retain in connection with Bayherivagh (North Bay) Estate—	Acres.
Arable and land enclosed	22-300
Fuisy and other islets	270-000
2nd. Ben Verrisag and Ben Obe grazing—	663-000
To be common to—	Acres.
Lots 1 to 9, inclusive (Bayherivagh)	59-300
Lots 1 to 3, inclusive (Bogach)	79-500
Lots 1 to 5, inclusive (Green)	60-300
	199-150
3rd. Easter slope of Ben Erival from red dotted line A, B, C, on the plan above referred to, and lying between march fence and public road	350-000
Common to—	Acres.
Lots 1 to 13, inclusive (Ardveanish, extending to	132-500
Lots 1 to 3, inclusive (North Bay Inn)	20-000
	152-500
4th. Western portion of Ben Erival and Ben Cleat, including part lying between both townships and Ard Green to the west	902-600
To be common to—	Acres.
Lots 1 to 15, inclusive (Cleat)	332-660
Lots 6 to 10, inclusive (Green)	109-750
	442-410
Portion marked "Pendicle" on plan	20-750
Total area	2,902-600

The part marked "Pendicle" on the plan is Machair land, and is to be apportioned between Lots 1 to 9, inclusive, of the township of Green. Lot 15 (Green) is mainly Machair, and part of this lot, as well as certain tracts on the "Pendicle," are on no account to be broken up, as they would blow.

The township of Cleat has 15 lots, and these, together with Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the township of Green, will each have one equal share in the common pasture apportioned to these townships.

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Green will each have two shares; while, on the other hand, each lot in Bayherivagh and Bogach will have one share in the common pastures of Ben Verrisag and Obe.

Each of the Ardveanish Lots and Lots 1, 2, and 3 of North Bay Inn will have an equal share in the common pasture of Easter Ben Erival.

The annual payment falling to be made for each of the 15 lots in Cleat and for Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 (Green) will be £5; for 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (Green), 24 lbs. each; and for the 35 lots in Bayherivagh, Bogach, North Bay Inn, and Ardveanish, 28 lbs. each.

Legal and other costs connected with the conveyance to the purchasers of their holdings will be borne by the Board.

The Board are advised that a road should be formed from or near the letter "O" on the plan along the course thereon marked, for the accommodation of the township of Cleat. It will be made about a mile in length to meet local requirements. The Board will bear the whole expense of this road. They are keeping in view that the new occupants have to obtain their plots from Ben Obe Common, and that it is important they have a convenient road leading to the moss.

With regard to fencing, the Board are prepared to undertake the cost of a fence at the outside of each township, but on condition only that each occupant concerned erect a stock-proof fence to the satisfaction of the Board at the end of his lot.

The following schedule sets forth:—

- (1) The number of each lot.
- (2) The name of each township.
- (3) The area of each lot.
- (4) The area of the common pastures.
- (5) The respective shares in the common pastures.
- (6) The purchase price for each lot; and
- (7) The annual payment required for 50 years to repay price.

No.	Township	Area of Lot.	Area of Occupied Pasture	Share in Common Pasture on above.	Annual Payment required for 20 years at 5 per cent.	Purchase Price.
		Acres.	Acres.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Bayborough,	5 100	507 000		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
2	Bosch,	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
3	Green,	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
4	Ardevanah,	11 400	300 000		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	11 400	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
5	North Bay Inn,	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
	"	5 000	"		2 18 0	87 18 0
6	Clert,	30 100	507 000		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	30 100	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
7	Green,	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0
	"	11 200	"		4 18 0	171 18 0

50,000 0 0

Advances for works other than buildings will only be made to a limited extent by special arrangement after consideration of individual circumstances.

By-laws for summoning meetings, conducting business, and carrying on all competent proceedings will be framed by the Congested Districts Board at a later date, and may from time to time be amended and altered by the Board; and each purchaser and his successors and his or their assigns shall be bound to obey and uphold the said by-laws and the rules promulgated under them.

If differences should arise between any of the purchasers or their successors regarding their common rights, these shall be referred to the Congested Districts Board or their successors in office, or to an arbitrator appointed by them, and the decision so arrived at shall be final and binding, and not subject to review.

The Congested Districts Board will accept repayment at any time of the balance of an advance made by them, but, until the advances to the purchaser of any holding shall have been fully repaid, with the interest accrued thereon, the holding shall be possessed subject to the following conditions:—

(a) Every sum due to the Board in respect of an advance shall be punctually paid.

(b) Each purchaser or his successor shall reside on his holding, and cultivate the same by himself or his family and servants in proper rotation, and according to the rules of good

husbandry. No purchaser shall sublet or subdivide his holding in the whole or in part under any pretext whatever.

(c) Each purchaser or his successor shall keep the dwellinghouse and other buildings on his holding insured against fire, with an office to be approved by the Board, in a sum that will suffice to reimburse them in the event of a total loss.

(d) Each purchaser or his successor shall maintain in good tenable condition the whole buildings, fences, roads, and drains on his holding (including the extent of ring fence adjacent to his own holding), whether constructed by means of advances from the Board or otherwise, and shall refrain from carrying on any operations destructive to the productivity and value of the holding.

(e) If the purchaser shall die during the currency of the period over which his loan extends, the Board shall be entitled to determine the heir who is to succeed him in the holding, giving a preference, if practicable (as to which the Board shall be the sole judge), to the heir indicated by the deceased occupant in any valid testamentary or other writing left by him; and such heir, on being recognised as occupant by the Board, shall take upon himself the whole obligations of his predecessors, including liability for any arrears of the payments due under his agreement; and a

APPENDIX VII.

similar power of determining the heir who is to succeed to the holding shall be vested in the Board in all subsequent cases of the death of the occupant during the currency of the said period.

- (f) If, on the death of the purchaser or any subsequent occupant, none of his relatives or heirs desire to take up the succession, the Board shall be entitled to sell the holding under the same conditions as are provided herein for the case of sale on default.
- (g) Any question between the Board and the several purchasers as to the meaning of the conditions inserted in their respective conveyances shall be determined by two arbiters mutually chosen, or by an arbitrator whom they may appoint, and the decision of such arbiter or arbitrator shall be final and conclusive.

Where default is made in complying with any one or more of the foregoing conditions, the Congested Districts Board shall be entitled to give the purchaser warning, by a letter delivered at his dwellinghouse or the holding, that continued non-fulfilment of such conditions will incur forfeiture of the holding; and if, after three months from the date of such warning, the default shall not have been remedied, the Board may declare the purchaser's whole rights in and to the said holding forfeited, and may sell the holding to the highest bidder who is not already the occupant of another holding, and who offers for the subjects exposed, with a view to personal occupation and possession, with entry to the new purchaser at the next term of Whitmasday, repaying out of the sale price any sums due to the Board or expended by them in making good the default of the disposed occupant or his predecessor, and handing over to him or his heir any balance of the selling price that may remain.

Bankruptcy or the granting of a Trust Deed for behoof of creditors shall also be held as incurring

forfeiture of the holding, and entitling the Board to sell and convey the holding to another purchaser.

Purchasers shall not be entitled to assign their holdings, except with the consent, in writing, of the Congested Districts Board, until their indebtedness to the Board has been discharged, and the Board shall be entitled to withhold their consent on the ground, among others, that the proposed assignee is not of the class for whom the holding was designed.

The Board reserves power, in negotiating the terms of their conveyances with the several purchasers, to make such alterations in the foregoing conditions as may in the circumstances seem to them expedient.

Loans necessary for buildings and also the nature and character of the building will in each case have to be adjusted with the Board.

Applicants must state the township in which they desire a holding.

Allocation of the holdings will be by ballot.

Applications with full particulars of the applicant's age, trade (if any), stock, capital, &c., should be lodged with the Secretary of the Congested Districts Board, 6 Parliament Square, Edinburgh, on or before 31st November, 1901.

R. H. MacGIBSON,

Secretary.

Congested Districts Board, Edinburgh,

24th September, 1901.

Summing.

Township of Cleat—3 cows; 1 horse; 8 sheep.

Township of Green—3 cows; 1 horse; 8 sheep.

Townships of Rayherivagh, Bogach, Antuenish, and Northlay—1 cow; 1 horse; 4 sheep.

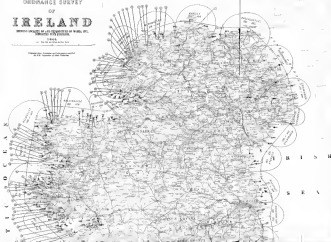
ORDNANCE SURVEY
OF
IRELAND

DESIGNED AND DRAWN BY J. H. STUART, ESQ., F.R.S.

1845

BY J. H. STUART, ESQ., F.R.S.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100